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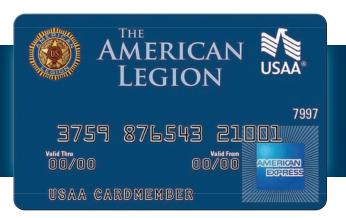


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# TAKING BACK THE TRACK

Linden Swift, an Air Force veteran and member of Avon Post 145, signs the People's Race Car in Speedway, Ind., on March 18. The movement to put a fan-funded car in the Indianapolis 500 on May 25 is attracting veterans' families, who see an opportunity to put loved ones' names on the car as a tribute to their military service.

"I like long-shot endeavors, and this is certainly one," Swift says.

Read the full story on Page 60. Photo by Lucas Carter

# 22 Sixty Years of Freedom

On the eve of their last official gathering, Korean War ex-POWs reflect on their time in captivity and the lives they built at home. By Matt Grills

# **34** Last Rites

As demand at national veterans cemeteries soars, VA scrambles to add burial space – and one community takes matters into its own hands. By Ken Olsen

# **42** Road to Hell

Good intentions aside. the United Nations' R2P doctrine would take the decision of U.S. intervention out of our hands. By Alan W. Dowd

# 46 Full Command

At the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership, cadets focus on earning respect and setting an example worth following. By Philip M. Callaghan

# **50** Destination Charlotte

The Queen City will host the 96th American Legion National Convention in August, with unique attractions and savory dishes to sample while in town.

# **54** Amis des Vétérans **Américains**

Normandy association unveils monument, hosts Liberty Banquet for 70th anniversary of D-Day invasion. By Jeff Stoffer

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.4 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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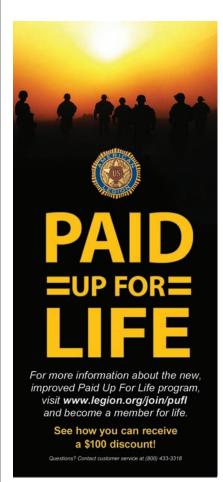
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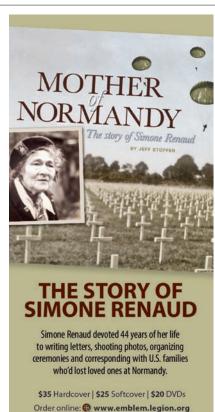
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NATIONAL COMMANDER Daniel M. Dellinger
PUBLISHER The American Legion

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jeffrey O. Brown
EDITOR Jeff Stoffer

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MAGAZINE OPERATIONS Henry Howard MANAGING EDITOR Matt Grills

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Laura Edwards

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Julie Campbell Steve Brooks
DISPATCH EDITOR Cameran Richardson
ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR Andrew Romey

BURNPIT EDITOR Mark Seavey
ART DIRECTOR Holly K. Soria
DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST Jason Reed

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PRODUCTION MANAGER

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Lucas Carter

Tony Heath

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# Copyright 2014 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Canada Post International Publications Mall (Canadian Distribution)
Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable
Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5.
Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office
dated Dec. 22, 1991.



Printed in USA Member Audit Bureau of Circulations The Magazine for a Strong America

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#### 'Not in Their Names'

Regarding the article by Ken Olsen (March), I am a disabled veteran and receive many services from VA medical centers and clinics. So when I see TV ads featuring veterans who are terribly injured or suffering from PTSD, or family members asking me to provide funds – much of which I would expect VA to provide – I am confused about what is and is not a scam. So I hold back, not wanting to be the fool but not wanting fellow veterans to suffer because I didn't do my part in caring for them.

I know these organizations need to have a few paid workers and overhead needs to be paid, but I believe 80 percent of money taken in should be for the veterans for whom it was meant.



- George Lampron, Broadway, Va.

# 'A Marshall Plan for Afghanistan'

I read the article by Jeff Stoffer (March) and appreciate the work done by people like Joanne King Herring, but why can't we do something like this in America?

We continue to have major disasters and have many people living below poverty level. Do we rebuild their homes or water supplies or electric power plants? We are sending billions of dollars to other countries, and do they appreciate us? No - in fact, they hate us for all that we have, as we try to turn them into democracies. Is this the best approach, to buy a country so it will like us?

Look where we are sending our money. Why? Balance-oftrade agreements? Our manufacturers send work overseas because of cheap labor and no environmental requirements. We pollute their country, but it ends up back on our shores.

Let's put our veterans to work by teaching them new skills, as they already have a devotion to the job as proven in the military. They are self-motivated and know how to take orders.

- Les Schreiber, Cupertino, Calif.

# 'Tough to Swallow'

I'm not an agricultural expert, but I am a farmer and cattle producer. The United States is the world's largest producer of corn. Forty percent of that is used for ethanol, but the corn is not food grade, and 30 percent of that 40 percent returns as byproducts used in the production of livestock.

In my humble opinion, speculation in the grain commodity market and energy costs have also been large contributors to hikes in food prices. We produced more than 13 billion bushels of corn in 2013, and it's \$4 a bushel now.

- James K. Jackson, Fairmont, Neb.

# **Keep Your Health Plan Act**

Neither Rep. Fred Upton nor Rep. Jan Schakowsky mention that the federal government should not be involved with health insurance at all (Big Issues, March). I have read the 10th Amendment, and nowhere does it tell the government that it has the authority to establish a health-care law or an insurance law. It is the states that have the authority to do something about health insurance.

- Arthur R. Mason, Ward, Ark.

## 'Post Office Blues'

The article by Paul Glader (March) is an example of how congressmen who wrap themselves in the flag can sacrifice a government agency that provides hundreds of thousands of jobs to veterans. If not for the Postal Act of 2006, passed by a Republican Congress and president, USPS would be solvent. Privatization was their goal, to satisfy countless lobbyists standing in line for the spoils.

- Hank Ackerman, Lake Hopatcong, N.J.

The only reasons USPS is hemorrhaging are mismanagement and the unions.

– Joe Trautner, Fayetteville, Ga.

#### **Electronic VA claims**

I agree with Tom Philpott's article (Veterans Update, March). Thank you for writing about this latest VA regulation, which does nothing but slow the process.

I have proudly served as a volunteer service officer for 13 years and have seen many recommended changes. However, I still feel that, many times, VA recommendations do not make the process any speedier for veterans.

Yes, we are in the computer age. However, VA in its "wisdom" assumes that every veteran has a computer and knows how to operate it beyond getting and sending an email.

The electronic approach is hindered by numerous errors. How many times have you observed VA employees having difficulty filling out forms and getting your information correct?

– Alice Thomsen, Medford, Ore.

# 'A Wound Reopened'

I was somewhat perturbed to read about the controversy at the U.S. Army War College (Rapid Fire, March). Neither Robert E. Lee nor Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was dishonorable. The Civil War was committed to the history books in 1865, but it appears we still have some kind of carpetbaggers roaming the country 150 years later. With this reasoning, all who fought for the South in the Civil War are not to be honored, and that is not the case. We need officials who will concentrate on our country now and allow the past to remain in the past. I implore the War College to leave things as they are. Attempting to fix things that are not broken tends to make them worse.

Glen Sisco, Lavon, Texas

Robert E. Lee was promoted to colonel by President Abraham Lincoln in March 1861. With any promotion, a servicemember reaffirms his or her allegiance to the United States of America.

On April 20, 1861, Lee resigned his commission and waged war against the United States. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's record is similar. To display pictures of either of these individuals at the U.S. Army War College is an insult to those of us who have served our country honorably.

– Roger Lockwood, Saline, Mich.

If the U.S. Army War College is reconsidering hanging portraits of these two generals, shouldn't there also be a reconsideration of the message sent by the naming

of various Army installations? Three that quickly come to mind are Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; and Fort A.P. Hill, Va. How many other installations are named after Confederate officers?

Why can the military accept naming installations after men "who fought against the United States," but not place pictures of them in a school that should be teaching the tactics and professionalism of these military men?

- Chris Cunningham, Waynesboro, Pa.

# 'The Face of America'

I enjoyed Alan W. Dowd's article about Mount Rushmore (February). The discussion about additional faces was interesting and a little political.

The point missed was that if additional faces were to be proposed, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would never give their approval.

Think about how many projects in our nation's history would not have happened if OSHA and EPA had been around then. The Erie Canal and the Transcontinental Railroad come to mind. I watched a show on the History Channel about the Gateway Arch and how OSHA would never approve it today.

This means we must enjoy Mount Rushmore as it is.

- Mike McCorkill, Greenfield, Mo.

**Correction:** In the article "LA Transformational" (April), Shakespeare Center for Los Angeles founder and artistic director Ben Donenberg's name was misspelled.

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# The 'greater meaning' of Memorial Day

Ronald Reagan stood at an outdoor lectern in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1984, and delivered one of the most memorable speeches of his presidency. "Behind me is a memorial that symbolizes the Ranger daggers that were thrust into the top of these cliffs. And before me are the men who put them there. These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war."

Many of those heroes lay beneath the crosses of the Normandy American Cemetery, others at Arlington, or in their hometowns. Millions more survived the war and raised their families under the peace and freedom they and their fallen comrades fought so hard to achieve.

Following the D-Day landings 70 years ago, thousands made the supreme sacrifice for our freedom. One was Pvt. Joe Gandara of Santa Monica, Calif., who voluntarily advanced alone and destroyed three enemy machine guns before he was fatally wounded on June 9, 1944, in Amfreville, France. He was 20. The young paratrooper was denied the opportunity to raise a family in the free world he helped ensure. On March 18, 2014, Gandara's 69-year-old niece received the Medal of Honor from President Obama on his behalf.

It was a ceremony I will never forget. Gandara and 23 other Army veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam were at long last recognized for heroic actions that cost many of them their lives, but forever earned their place in history as recipients of the nation's highest military award. And those who died fighting are forever young in the memories of loved ones.

This is why Memorial Day is so important. We don't just honor those who participated in the most hellacious firefights. We honor the more than 1 million men and women who lost their lives defending America in wars from the Revolution to the global war on terrorism – people like Marine Sgt. William Stacey, who was on his fourth deployment to Afghanistan when he was killed by an IED blast while walking patrol in Helmand province on Jan. 23, 2012. Like many who go to war, Stacey left a letter behind to be read "just in case" something happened to him:

My death did not change the world. It may be tough for you to justify its meaning at all. But there is a greater meaning to it. Perhaps I did not change the world. But there will be a child who will live because men left the security they enjoyed in their home country to come to his. And this child will learn in the new schools that have been built. He will walk his streets not worried about whether or not his leader's henchmen are going to come and kidnap him. He will grow into a fine man who will pursue every opportunity his heart could desire. He will have the gift of freedom, which I have enjoyed for so long. If my life buys the safety of a child who will one day change this world, then I know that it was all worth it.

Like all who fell fighting in the primes of their lives, Stacey is also forever young, to be remembered this Memorial Day and many to come for bestowing on all of us the gift of freedom.



National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger

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In 1920, Legionnaires helped establish the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA), which decorates the graves of U.S. war dead in Europe and nearly 200 more isolated sites. The organization also supports Memorial Day activities at these cemeteries. To become a member or learn more about its mission, visit AOMDA's website.



# **ARMED FORCES DAY**

Since 1950, the United States has observed Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May. Tell us how your post will recognize the five branches of the U.S. military and those serving in them.

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# **WATCH SPRING MEETINGS LIVE**

The National Executive Committee will meet in Indianapolis May 7-8. Sessions will be streamed live online at 8:30 a.m. May 7 and 9 a.m. May 8, both Eastern time.

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"You make such great friendships through the Legion and people depend on each other. It's helping people today."

# JUDI BEISCHEL

Judi Beischel, a Coast Guard veteran, traces her American Legion roots to birth.

Her father, Francis Slate – a World War II Army veteran and past post commander – is now celebrating his 70th year as a Legionnaire. Beischel's brother, Kevin, served in the Navy and is a Legionnaire, too. Her mother belonged to the Auxiliary, along with her sisters.

"I was always proud that my dad was very active in the post," says Beischel, Arizona's department commander. "It's something that you pass on to the kids. We've got four grandchildren, from 7 to 2, and they have all been members (of the Legion Family) since they were born. You've got to start them out young."

Born on Memorial Day, she spent much of her childhood at her father's post in upstate New York. One of her earliest memories is marching in a Memorial Day parade at age 4.

Today, Beischel works tirelessly to prop up veterans who are down on their luck. As department commander, she's overseeing an initiative to build a 24-unit facility for homeless women veterans. "We're seeing a lot of young homeless veterans because they don't have jobs or family to come back to," she says. "It's difficult."

Beischel's passion to help others comes from her close-knit families at home and at Post 58 in Fountain Hills. Ariz.

"From the time I was very young, I knew my dad lost his brother at Normandy on June 6," she says. "I've always felt a need to welcome veterans. So many Vietnam veterans came back and were treated poorly. We try to make sure that doesn't happen again."

BRANCH OF SERVICE Coast Guard Reserve, 1973-1980
MOS Boatswain's mate

RANK AT DISCHARGE Petty officer first class AMERICAN LEGION POST Post 58, Fountain Hills, Ariz. YEARS IN THE LEGION 12

#### **VETERANS ACTIVITIES**

- Department commander (2013-2014)
- Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (2012)
- District 12 commander (2009-2010)
- National American Legion College graduate (2009)

Watch an interview with Judi Beischel online:

www.legion.org/magazine





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# Fast-track trade authority



# **SUPPORT**

# Rep. Dave Reichert, R-Wash.

■ Reichert is chairman of the House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee.

In today's global economy, our workers, farmers and businesses are seeking to expand their reach to the 96 percent of consumers living outside our borders. We can support them through free-trade agreements. If we are not at the negotiating table, we fall behind, at a cost to U.S. jobs and workers.

Thanks to previous agreements, trade supports more than 38 million U.S. jobs. It connects the small candy manufacturer and the hay producer in Washington state with growing markets around the world. From my home state, 12,600 companies export

to more than 200 countries. Across the country, the story is the same. Exports to our current free-trade agreement partners account for more than 40 percent of our exports and have increased by more than 50 percent since 2009. Our current agreements and negotiations cover more than 60 percent of global goods and services trade. Trade agreements mean more exports, and more exports mean more jobs for U.S. workers.

Trade promotion authority (TPA) shows our negotiating partners that we are serious and committed, incentivizing them to agree to high standards. With TPA and trade agreements, we gain access to new markets and consumers, expand important relationships with our allies, and promote the rule of law.

In January, bipartisan legislation was introduced to renew and update TPA. It outlines congressional priorities, the process by which Congress has final approval of an agreement, and how the administration must consult with Congress before, during and after trade negotiations. This expands the role of members of Congress, guaranteeing the opportunity for us to advocate on behalf of our constituents as trade negotiations are conducted.



THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Trade promotion authority – also known

as "fast track" - gives the executive branch

broad authority to negotiate trade

agreements. Critics say that Congress

has exclusive constitutional authority

to set U.S. trade policy.

# **OPPOSE**

# Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

■ DeLauro serves as co-chair of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

The usual suspects are once again promising prosperity from another trade proposal – the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) – based on the same failed model of NAFTA. Negotiated behind closed doors, with plenty of input from 600 U.S. corporate trade advisers but little from elected

representatives or the public, TPP would leave Americans at the mercy of fiercer competition with 11 other nations, including Vietnam and its 28-centsper-hour minimum wage.

The damage this agreement will do to America's

already struggling middle class is grounds enough to oppose this agreement, but it also threatens to roll back financial regulation and environmental standards, increase drug prices and jeopardize the safety of the food we eat. TPP would also create binding policies in countless other areas, thwarting Congress and state legislatures from mitigating future damage.

It is troubling that the administration asked for so-called fast-track trade promotion authority to facilitate this unprecedented agreement. Under fast track, the president could sign TPP before Congress votes on it, with a guarantee that that body – after limited debate and with all amendments forbidden – would vote within 90 days.

Roughly 190 members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, have made clear their opposition to fast track. Indeed, the legislation's sponsors failed to find a single House Democrat to co-sponsor the measure.

I am not opposed to trade. I am, however, opposed to unfair agreements that hollow out the middle class and limit opportunities for working families, as well as legislative tactics that eliminate Congress' constitutional oversight role.

# CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121
The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

Meet the Beauty in the Beast

Discover this spectacular 6½-carat green treasure from Mount St. Helens!

 $\mathbf{F}$  or almost a hundred years it lay dormant. Silently building strength. At 10,000 feet high, it was truly a sleeping giant. Until May 18, 1980, when the beast awoke with violent force and revealed its greatest secret. Mount St. Helens erupted, sending up a 80,000-foot column of ash and smoke. From that chaos, something beautiful emerged... our spectacular *Helenite Necklace*.



Helenite is produced from the heated volcanic rock of Mount St. Helens and the brilliant green creation has captured the eye of jewelry designers worldwide. Today you can wear this massive 6½-carat stunner for *only \$149*!

Make your emeralds jealous. Our *Helenite Necklace* puts the green stone center stage, with a faceted pear-cut set in .925 sterling silver finished in luxurious gold. The explosive origins of the stone are echoed in the flashes of light that radiate as the piece swings gracefully from its 18" luxurious gold-finished sterling silver chain. Today the volcano sits quiet, but this unique piece of American natural history continues to erupt with gorgeous green fire.

**Your satisfaction is guaranteed.** Bring home the *Helenite Necklace* and see for yourself. If you are not completely blown away by the rare beauty of this exceptional stone, simply return the necklace within 30 days for a full refund of your purchase price.

#### **JEWELRY SPECS**:

- 6 ½ ctw Helenite in gold-finished sterling silver setting
- 18" gold-finished sterling silver chain

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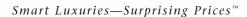
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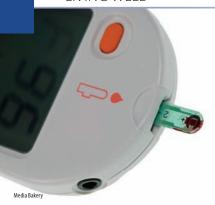
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Necklace

enlarged to

show luxurious





# DIABETES by the numbers

Estimated Americans with undiagnosed diabetes

MILLION

Estimated Americans with pre-diabetes

**MILLION** 

Americans 20 or older with physician-diagnosed diabetes, as of 2010

**MILLION** 

New cases of diabetes diagnosed each year

Approximate number of Americans younger than 20 with diabetes

Source: American Heart Association

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

# **Need some air?**

BY JUDITH HURLEY

Veterans need greater access to programs to help them cope with COPD.

or the nearly 15 million Americans diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), just getting through the day can be tough. Wheezing, shortness of breath and other symptoms of restricted airflow make it difficult to perform even simple tasks, such as getting dressed, shopping for groceries and working in the yard. The disease, which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis, is most often caused by smoking and occurs more often in veterans than nonveterans.

"About 18 to 20 percent of adults in the general population currently smoke, but 30 to 40 percent of veterans are active smokers," says Ralph Panos, a pulmonologist at the Cincinnati VAMC and professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Panos and his colleagues recently conducted focus groups with 42 veterans receiving care from the Cincinnati VAMC. "It was eye-opening to see and hear about the effect of COPD on these veterans," he says.

Because of breathing difficulties, many had to retire early and couldn't engage in normal recreational activities. The effect on social interactions was especially evident.

"Some veterans said they could no longer get to the Legion hall to

socialize because of breathlessness." Panos says. "They had to be sure they didn't overexert themselves. They couldn't go to family events and had to increasingly rely on family members, which made them feel that they were a

Feelings of depression, hopelessness, fear and anxiety about their breathing were common. Some noted that their physical limitations hindered sexual activity and led to marital discord. In addition, many veterans did not fully understand their diagnoses and weren't aware of steps they could take on their own to manage the disease.

Effective programs exist to help patients cope with COPD, but too few patients both inside and outside the VA medical system are referred to them. Pulmonary rehabilitation programs typically provide training in exercise and breathing techniques, psychological support and education. For example, participants are taught how to use inhalers so that the full dose of medicine reaches the lungs (few people use these finicky devices correctly), how to make adjustments at home to make everyday tasks easier and what to do if symptoms worsen. These programs are clearly beneficial individuals who go through them have

# Be pro-active about COPD

- If you smoke, quit. It's the best thing you can do to prevent or manage COPD. Ask your doctor about medications that can help you quit. Attend a smoking cessation program, call a help line or use online resources.
- Talk to your doctor if you experience shortness of breath upon exertion. Don't put it off; treatment can improve symptoms and slow the disease's progression.
- If you or your doctor think you might have COPD, request a spirometry test.
- If you've been diagnosed with COPD, take your medicine as prescribed. Have your doctor or pharmacist check your inhaler technique. Ask your doctor about a referral to a pulmonary rehabilitation program.

fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits than those who don't, Panos says.

Telehealth programs, in which patients monitor symptoms at home and relay the information to medical staff, are also making inroads. At the Cincinnati VAMC, patients with COPD are given a digital device called a Health Buddy that asks them questions each day such as, "Do you have more shortness of breath than usual today?" and, "In the past 48 hours, have you been wheezing more than usual?"

With the push of a button, the patient's answers are relayed to a telehealth center. If the responses suggest a problem, a nurse calls the patient or contacts their physician.

"The telehealth program almost pre-empts the need for health-care visits," Panos says. "The veteran doesn't need to leave home."

While these kinds of programs are helping people already diagnosed with COPD, about half of those with the condition don't know they have it. The signs and symptoms can be mild, especially in the early stages. A person may notice that he or she needs to stop and rest more often while walking at the mall, or that it has become harder to climb stairs without getting out of breath. A breathing test called spirometry is the best way to diagnose COPD, but it's not used often enough.

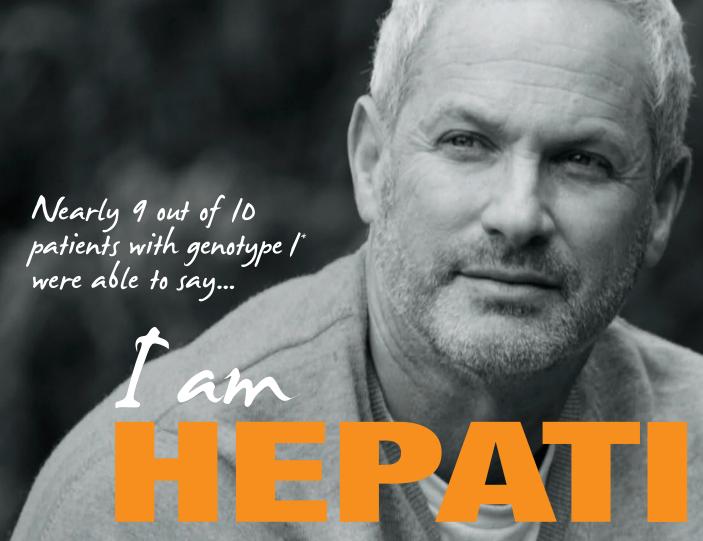
Hoping to boost use by primary care physicians, the Cincinnati VAMC recently moved spirometry testing from the hospital to the outpatient clinics and saw testing rates jump. Thanks to a new funding initiative, other VAMCs are expected to make the same change by 2015.

Panos says that anyone who easily becomes short of breath should see a doctor, since early treatment can slow progression: "There are now at least half a dozen treatments that reduce the mortality and symptoms of COPD."

Judith Hurley specializes in writing about health and medicine.







# **Important Safety Information**

What is the most important information I should know about SOVALDI? SOVALDI combination therapy with ribavirin or peginterferon alfa and ribavirin can cause birth defects or death of your unborn baby. If you or your sexual partner is pregnant or plans to become pregnant, do not take these medicines.

- You and your sexual partner must use 2 effective forms of birth control and should not become pregnant while being treated with SOVALDI combination therapy and for 6 months after your treatment is over. Talk to your doctor about forms of birth control.
- If you or your partner can become pregnant you must have a pregnancy test before starting

treatment with SOVALDI combination therapy, every month while being treated, and for 6 months after your treatment ends.

• Tell your healthcare provider right away if a pregnancy occurs while taking or within 6 months after you stop taking SOVALDI combination therapy. You or your healthcare provider should contact the Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry. If you are also infected with HIV and taking medicines to treat your HIV infection, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry is also available. For contact information, see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information.

# You should not take SOVALDI alone.

SOVALDI should be used together with ribavirin or in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin to treat chronic Hep C infection.

\*In a study of 327 patients who had no prior Hep C treatments, 89% of those with genotype 1 were cured. All patients received SOVALDI once daily for 12 weeks along with another oral medicine (ribavirin) and weekly injections (peginterferon alfa).

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information on the following page.



# Changing Hep C with a groundbreaking treatment called SOVALDI.®

SOVALDI is a prescription medicine used with other antiviral medicines to treat chronic (lasting a long time) hepatitis C (Hep C) infection in adults. SOVALDI should not be taken alone. It is not known if SOVALDI is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

For the most common type of Hep C (genotype 1), SOVALDI is designed and proven to work quickly with just 12 weeks of treatment in combination with other prescription medicines. One SOVALDI pill is taken once daily, along with another oral medicine and a weekly injection.

In a clinical study nearly 9 out of 10 patients were cured. All patients received SOVALDI once daily for 12 weeks along with another oral medicine (ribavirin) and weekly injections (peginterferon alfa).

Cure means the Hep C virus is not detected in the blood when measured 3 months after treatment is completed.

They're calling this Hep C treatment a breakthrough. They got that right. Imagine being Hep C free after just 12 weeks of treatment.

Don't wait for liver disease to progress. Talk to your gastroenterologist today and visit www.sovaldi.com

# IS Gured

# What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking SOVALDI?

- If you have: liver problems other than hepatitis C infection; had a liver transplant; severe kidney problems or are on dialysis; HIV; any other medical condition; or if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take SOVALDI or breastfeed. You should not do both.
- If you take rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®), St. John's wort or a product that contains St. John's wort. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how SOVALDI works.

# What are the most common side effects of SOVALDI?

For SOVALDI used in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin they include tiredness, headache, nausea, difficulty sleeping, and low red blood cell count.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.





SOVALDI® (soh-VAHL-dee) (sofosbuvir) tablets Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. Please see full Prescribing Information. Rx Only.

What is the most important information I should know about SOVALDI?

SOVALDI, in combination with ribavirin or peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, may cause birth defects or death of your unborn baby. If you are pregnant or your sexual partner is pregnant or plans to become pregnant, do not take these medicines. You or your sexual partner should not become pregnant while taking SOVALDI with ribavirin or in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, and for 6 months after treatment is over.

Females and males must use 2 effective forms of birth control during treatment and for the 6 months after treatment with SOVALDI and ribavirin or in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin. Talk to your healthcare provider about forms of birth control that may be used during this time.

Females must have a negative pregnancy test before starting treatment with SOVALDI and ribavirin or in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, every month while being treated, and for 6 months after your treatment ends.

 If you or your female sexual partner becomes pregnant while taking or within 6 months after you stop taking SOVALDI and ribavirin, or SOVALDI in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider right away. You or your healthcare provider should contact the Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry by calling 1-800-593-2214. The Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry collects information about what happens to mothers and their babies if the mother takes ribavirin while she is pregnant. If you are also infected with HIV and taking medicines to treat your HIV infection, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry is also available at 1-800-258-4263.

You should not take SOVALDI alone. SOVALDI should be used together with ribavirin or in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin to treat should be prefit in Confection.

ribavirin to treat chronic hepatitis C infection.

#### What is SOVALDI?

SOVALDI is a prescription medicine used with other antiviral medicines to treat chronic (lasting a long time) hepatitis C infection in adults. SOVALDI should not be taken alone. It is not known if SOVALDI is safe and effective in children under 18 years of age.

# Who should not take SOVALDI? See "What is the most important information I should know about SOVALDI?" What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking SOVALDI? Before taking SOVALDI, tell your healthcare provider if you: • have liver problems other than hepatitis C infection

have had a liver transplant

have severe kidney problems or you are on dialysis

have HIV

have any other medical condition
are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if SOVALDI passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take SOVALDI or breastfeed. You should not do both.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how SOVALDI works. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:

carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®) oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®, Oxtellar XR™) phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®) phenobarbital (Luminal®)

rifabutin (Mycobutin°) rifampin (Rifadin°, Rifamate°, Rifater°, Rimactane°)

rifapentine (Priftin®)

St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum) or a product that contains St. John's wort

tipranavir (Aptivus®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a

# How should I take SOVALDI?

Take SOVALDI exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. Do not change your dose unless your healthcare provider tells Do not stop taking SOVALDI without first talking with your healthcare provider. If you think there is a reason to stop taking SOVALDI,

talk to your healthcare provider before doing so.

Take SOVALDI1 time each day with or without food. If you miss a dose of SOVALDI, take the missed dose as soon as you remember the same day. Do not take more than 1 tablet (400 mg) of SOVALDI in a day. Take your next dose of SOVALDI at your regular time the next day.
If you take too much SOVALDI, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

# What are the possible side effects of SOVALDI?

See "What is the most important information I should know about SOVALDI?"

The most common side effects of SOVALDI when used in combination with ribavirin include:

tiredness

headache

The most common side effects of SOVALDI when used in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin include:

tiredness

headache

nausea

difficulty sleeping low red blood cell count

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of SOVALDI. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

# Keep SOVALDI and all medicines out of the reach of children.

**General information about the safe and effective use of SOVALDI**It is not known if treatment with SOVALDI will prevent you from infecting another person with the hepatitis C virus during treatment. Talk with your healthcare provider about ways to prevent spreading the hepatitis C virus.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use SOVALDI for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SOVALDI to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

If you would like more information about SOVALDI, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about SOVALDI that is written for health professionals. For more information, call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.SOVALDI.com

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Issued: December 2013
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# Sound check

HearPO, one of The American Legion's member discount providers, reminds us that May is Better Hearing and Speech Month, which started more than 75 years ago to raise awareness of communication disorders and the treatments available. Too many Americans leave hearing loss untreated; of the nearly 35 million who suffer some degree of loss, only 25 percent seek help.

That's a shame when 95 percent of those individuals could benefit from hearing aids. Whether you think you might have loss or not, it is important to get your hearing tested annually just like your eyes or teeth. Your first hearing test will create a baseline for your annual exam and help identify any changes in the future.

**HEARING LOSS INDICATIONS** The signs of hearing loss can be subtle and emerge slowly, or be significant and come on suddenly. Either way, there are common indications. You should suspect hearing loss if you experience any of these signs:

# Socially

- Require frequent repetition
- Difficulty following conversations involving more than two people
- Other people sound muffled or like they're mumbling
- Difficulty hearing in noisy places or situations, such as conferences, restaurants, malls or crowded rooms
- Difficulty hearing children and women
- Use high volume on TV or radio
- Answer or respond inappropriately in conversations
- Ringing in your ears
- Read lips or more intently watch people's faces when they speak

#### **Emotionally**

- Stressed from straining to hear what others are saying
- Annoyed at others because you can't hear or understand them
- Embarrassed to meet new people or from misunderstanding what others say
- Nervous about trying to hear and understand
- Withdraw from social situations that you once enjoyed because of difficulty hearing

# Medically

- A family history of hearing loss
- Medications that can harm the hearing system
- Diabetes, heart, circulation or thyroid problems
- Multiple exposures to very loud sounds over a long period, or a single exposure to explosive noise

If you experience any of the above signs, contact HearPO for a free hearing screening by calling

1-888-319-9205, or visit www.hearpo.com/legion.
In addition to watching for signs of hearing loss, it is important to protect the hearing you have for tomorrow.
For a line of audiologist-selected headphones and preventive hearing-care products at a valuable 20-percent discount, visit www.audiobyhearpo.com and use the promo code LEGION20 (case-sensitive) at checkout.





No matter our age, we all have at least two things in common: we are getting older, and we want to keep getting older.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) reports that Americans older than 65 will number 72 million by 2030, or 20 percent of the overall population. That's up from 40 million and just 13 percent in 2010.

There are more senior citizens in America, and they are living longer, fuller and healthier

lives – men who reach 65 can expect to live another 17.7 years and women another 20.3 years, according to CDC studies.

> Not coincidentally, NIH reports that seasoned Americans enjoy better economic health today than in decades past. Since 1974, the proportion of older

people with incomes below the poverty thresholds (less than \$10,458 in 2010 for a person 65 and older) has fallen from 15 percent to 9 percent. The percentage with low income (between \$10,458 and \$20,916 in 2010 for people 65 and older) dropped from 35 percent to 26 percent. Meanwhile, there were notable gains in income in the same period, as the proportion of people 65 and older with high income (\$41,832 and above in 2010) rose from 18 percent to 31 percent.

Yet there are some danger zones. According to CDC data, 41.5 percent of independent (noninstitutionalized) men and 40.3 percent of independent women 65 to 74 are considered obese today, and 64.1 percent of men and 69.3 percent of women 65 to 74 suffer from hypertension (high blood pressure).

webmd.com/healthy-aging

Media Bakery

# Bill seeks in-state tuition rates for veterans

# BY TOM PHILPOTT

The House of Representatives has voted unanimously for a bill to force public colleges and universities to charge lower in-state tuition and fees to nonresident veterans or be blocked from enrolling new students seeking to use GI Bill education benefits.

The Senate is expected to approve similar legislation this year. For now, though, Sen. Bernie

Sanders, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, wants to keep the in-state tuition initiative a key ingredient of a larger benefits improvement bill.

S. 1982 would cost roughly \$15 billion over the next decade, funded largely from an account earmarked for continuing operations in Afghanistan. The Senate rejected it on procedural grounds at the end of February with opponents citing those costs.

The American Legion and other veterans organizations applauded passage of the GI

Bill Tuition Fairness Act (H.R. 357), sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. It would ensure that GI Bill users aren't faced with out-of-pocket education costs based on assignment in service or if they settle in a state where they can't immediately claim residency after leaving service.

The House bill would direct VA to approve for participation in VA education-benefits programs only those public institutions of higher education that charge veterans no more than in-state tuition and fees. GI Bill students could not enroll in schools that refuse to comply, although a grandfather provision would protect students already enrolled as of July 1, 2015, allowing them continued use of GI Bill benefits at disqualified public institutions until July 2019.

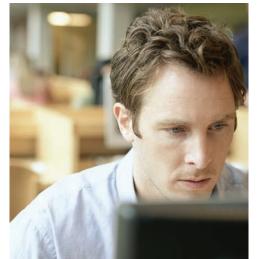
Twenty states already provide nonresident veterans with in-state residency waivers. Schools or school systems individually provide such waivers in eight other states, and 12 states have in-state tuition legislation pending, according to Student Veterans of America.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill's maximum benefit is set at the highest in-state rate for a public college. So when nonresident veterans attend public colleges out of state, they face thousands of dollars in costs that the GI Bill won't cover. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the average added cost for tuition alone for nonresidents was almost \$8,700.

For-profit colleges can use that disparity to lure

nonresident veterans into overpriced curriculums using the Post-9/11 GI Bill's Yellow Ribbon initiative. Private colleges, including for-profits, enter into agreements with VA to waive up to half of the tuition and fees they charge above the most costly state school. VA in turn will match the waived amount, enhancing school reimbursements under the new GI Bill.

Passage of H.R. 357 would allow GI Bill users everywhere to attend state schools at no cost, lowering the enticement of Yellow Ribbon offers. The Congressional



Media Bakery

Budget Office (CBO) estimates that H.R. 357 would save VA \$139 million over the next decade.

But the House bill also has a "backend financing" feature that would pose a problem for many state colleges and universities, said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal policy for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He noted that every state now subsidizes some of the cost to educate resident students at state colleges and universities. H.R. 357, in effect, would force states to subsidize in-state tuition and fees for nonresident veterans. The Senate version would extend the waiver to dependents of veterans, too.

Not explained, Nassirian said, is "how the difference would be made up."

Total added costs for states wouldn't be too great. CBO estimates that if H.R. 357 is enacted, approximately 3,800 veterans a year would no longer be charged the higher costs of being non-residents at state-run schools.

Tom Philpott has written about military personnel and veterans issues for more than 30 years.

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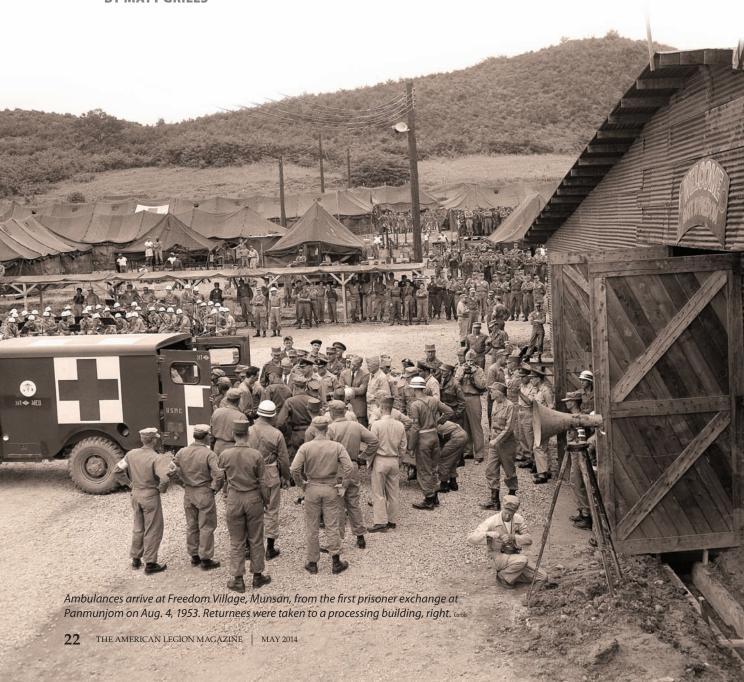
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# SIXTY YEARS OF FREEDOM

On the eve of their last official gathering, Korean War ex-POWs reflect on their time in captivity – and the lives they built at home.

**BY MATT GRILLS** 



On July 27, the 61st anniversary of the armistice that ended full-scale hostilities and paved the way for their release, ex-POWs of the Korean War will gather for what's likely to be their final reunion in Louisville, Ky.

They first met in the city in 1976.

"It began with what I guess you would call loneliness," says Bill Norwood, the group's founder and president. "I needed to talk to some of these guys. For one thing, there's a lot of mysteries. The enemy would come in at night, take someone away and you'd never see him again. I needed to know some of this stuff."

He searched for two years and found 12 former prisoners. One man knew another, that man knew somebody else, and it grew from there.

Numbers are declining as they pass away, but the Korean War Ex-POW Association has members in the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, the Philippines, South Korea, Australia, Turkey, Canada and South Africa.

Last year, 72 men and their families traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 60th anniversary of their release. They attended ceremonies honoring the service of Korean War veterans and remembered the fallen at their national memorial.

But the most personal tributes, the most wrenching reminiscences, happened in huddled groups at dinner tables and in the hotel lobby, where the ex-POWs talked of those who didn't survive captivity or the marches to prison camps.

"This has been a form of therapy for me," Norwood says.

Philip O'Brien of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) has attended the group's reunions since 1996. A senior analyst who specializes in the Korean War, his focus is to gather information on missing U.S. servicemen and, if possible, recover their remains. He's become like family to the ex-POWs, able to tell them far more about the routes they took and where they stayed than they knew at the time.

Of the 4,500 Americans or so who returned from captivity, O'Brien and DPMO have spoken to about 700, "which is more than half the surviving population ... and the bell curve is going to fall off pretty rapidly from here."

He adds, "I know there are people here I will never see again because they will not live to the next reunion. There's a certain sadness to it. It's the greatest generation all over again."

# Visit the Korean War Ex-POW Association online:

koreanwarexpow.org



Noel St. John

# ELLIOTT SORTILLO

At 16, Elliott Sortillo joined the 31st Infantry Regiment and participated in the landing at Inchon, South Korea. The unit headed south to Pusan, where it boarded a ship to make another landing at Iwon in the north.

When his company went to Koto-ri to join U.S. Marines and British Royal Marines for a push north, the temperature was 35 below zero, and the convoy was ambushed by the Chinese. After fighting all day and night, the units in the front got through, but Sortillo's unit in the rear did not. Near daybreak on Nov. 30, 1950, their part of the convoy was surrounded. "Some men escaped, but it was everybody for themselves," he says. "Mass confusion."



On the march north, Sortillo teamed up with Eddie Curd, a British Royal Marine. They both suffered from frostbite, and to survive they helped each other avoid being shot for lagging or left behind to freeze to death. On Feb. 3, 1951, they arrived at the town of Pyoktong, which became Camp No. 5 and their jail for the next 31 months.

They slept with 12 to 15 other men, head to toe in a tiny hut with a mud floor. "Everyone had lice, in their clothes and on their bodies," he says. "It was very tough trying to delouse in subzero temperatures."

Sortillo spent his 17th, 18th and 19th birthdays as a POW, subjected to communist propaganda daily and having little to eat – frozen turnips, millet, soybeans, boiled potatoes, barley. "All I wanted was a vanilla milkshake, like I used to get back in Philadelphia for a quarter," he says. "I dreamed about it for three years. I finally got it and was sick as a dog."

After his release, he re-enlisted and eventually served in Vietnam with the Special Forces. "I told my wife not to worry about me being captured again. 'The first time they were fighting a boy,' I said. 'This time they're fighting a man.""

Sortillo returned to Korea in 1968, stationed at the DMZ with his old outfit, the 7th Infantry Division.

"I have post-traumatic stress," he says. "I have a lot of bad dreams and flashbacks, and I'm in Korea and Vietnam every day. My team sergeant in Vietnam was killed a few years after we served together. His name is on the Wall, and I see his face all the time.

"My granddaughter in Texas put it best: 'Pop Pop, it is what it is. Some people make it, some people won't."



# BILL NORWOOD

For Bill Norwood, enlisting was a matter of economics. His dad died when he was 12, his mother and two siblings needed support, and the Army made an allotment for dependents. A country boy from east Tennessee, he headed to Fort Jackson, S.C., and then Fort Lewis, Wash., for basic training when he came of age.

"After I got there, I found that's where I really belonged," he says. "I had clothes to wear, food to eat, a place to sleep, and I was happy."

Captivity took all that away.

Assigned to the 24th Infantry Division, Norwood arrived in Korea in September 1950. Though he had a rifleman's MOS, he was assigned to drive trucks. "I thought, 'This is a great job, back where there's no danger," he recalls. "That didn't work out."

Six months later, on April 25, 1951, Norwood was caught in an ambush. He held on for most of a day, and made it across a rice paddy and into the woods with another soldier. They traveled that night, not even sure if they were headed south. They stopped to rest and woke up to a Chinese bayonet.

"I look at being captured not as an act of heroism or cowardice," he says. "It's just an act of 'Do you want to live another minute? Another hour?""

For a moment, fear left him. "All of a sudden the surroundings became very quiet. I saw a bright shining light in front of me, and as I walked along, I couldn't feel the pain. It was so strange. I saw my mother, hanging clothes on the line, smiling and waving at me, and that calmed me. I assumed I'd be killed, and I wasn't frightened anvmore.

"Then I got back to reality, and I realized I was in a world of trouble."

The march from the 38th Parallel to the camp at Ch'ang-Song took four months and covered hundreds of miles. Along the way, the prisoners' ranks thinned for lack of food and water.

"If you've ever been thirsty – I mean really, really thirsty - it's the most uncomfortable feeling," he says. "Hunger kind of goes away, but thirst just keeps increasing."

Norwood managed to stay on his feet, but once at camp, he grew so ill that guards

dispatched him to a hut called the "death house." There, he put his head between his knees and waited for the end.

Dave Dawson, a fellow Tennessean, saved his life.

"You want to sit here and die?" he told Norwood. "These people don't care. It's just a mouth they don't have to feed. If you'll help yourself, I'll help you, but if not, I'm not going to waste my time."

The camp cook, Dawson brought him charcoal from the bottoms of kitchen pots to help control diarrhea caused by dysentery, and in two weeks, Norwood was up and about.

Together they survived two years as POWs, and when buzz started to build that their release was near, Norwood and Dawson agreed they wouldn't react when their captors announced the armistice. "We weren't going to give them the pleasure of seeing us happy," he says.

They were taken in groups to Freedom Village at the DMZ, and Norwood recalls being there three days – "the longest three days of my life." At last, on Aug. 15, 1953, his name was called from a roster. He was turned over to U.S. officials, given a shower and sprayed with DDT. He returned to the United States on the same ship that took him to war: the Gen. M.C. Meigs.

His mother had only recently learned he was alive. Shortly

after Norwood's capture, she received a telegram stating that he was missing in action. Nearly two years passed before she learned he was in captivity, from one of the few letters he'd been allowed to write.

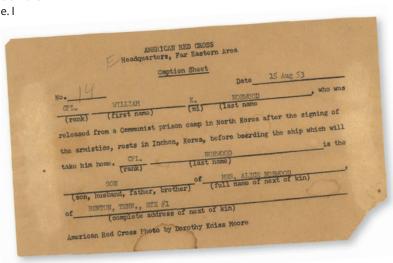
Norwood married Elizabeth, the neighbor of a fellow prisoner, and they had a son and daughter. Neither child knew of his POW experience until they were in high school.

For a long time, he didn't talk much about Korea to anyone. Occasionally it came up during a hunting or fishing trip with Dawson,

but the memories were raw even 20 years later.

Once again, Norwood finds himself in thinning ranks. He tells his story now for those who didn't come home.

"One of my main concerns is keeping alive the memory of those we left behind," he says. "I fly the POW/MIA flag. I'm often asked, 'Is Bill flying a pirate flag?' That really hurts. These were my closest friends and my buddies, and I can't ignore them. I've got to keep their memory alive."



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# Korean War accounting

U.S. military personnel unaccounted for

Joint field activities (JFAs) completed in North Korea, 1996-2014

JFAs completed in South Korea, 1996-2014

Remains recovered and repatriated through JFAs, with 107 accounted for

Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations (1990-1994), in 208 boxes, with 98 accounted for

Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations, 2007

Remains disinterred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, 1999-2014, with 42 accounted for

Remains repatriated through recovery operations in South Korea, with 11 accounted for

Total remains identified, 1982-2014

Source: Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)



# ARDEN ROWLEY

A moment of hesitation led to Arden Rowley's capture.

A soldier with the 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, he'd been at the front three times already. With Chinese troops blocking the 2nd Infantry Division's retreat south through a mountain pass, Rowley's unit was caught in the rear guard, and on the morning of Dec. 1, 1950, he and two others found themselves alone.

"We heard jabbering and saw eight armed soldiers coming up the hill toward us," he says. "We thought they were South Koreans. They were friendly, and so it threw me off guard. When one of them reached for my weapon and pulled it toward him, I knew."

For 24 nights, Rowley and other U.S. military personnel were forced to march northward. On Christmas, they stopped at a temporary camp that became known as Death Valley. In the following weeks, hundreds of men died from dysentery, beriberi, severe malnutrition and other diseases.

The group walked six more days to Pyoktong, where more died, including two in the room where Rowley slept.

"A fellow next to me named Tuttle had gotten pneumonia," he recalls. "In a few days he was so weak I knew it was just about the end. I was leaning on my elbow next to him, and he was lying on his back with his eyes closed. I said a prayer: 'Father in heaven, help Tuttle not have to suffer any longer.' When I opened my eyes, Tuttle was looking at me, and he said, 'Thanks, Rowley,' and died.

"It was a real challenge to bury those men," he continues. "The ice on the Yalu River was thick, so you can bet the ground was frozen that deep as well. We could dig a grave only large enough to place the body in and throw whatever rocks, dirt, ice and snow we could over it.

"We didn't have to go on burial details every day because the bodies were essentially in cold storage. Every two or three days we'd go out and try our best to give decent burials to those men."

As peace negotiations dragged on, the Chinese lectured the POWs on the glories of communism, praising Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong. The food got better, though. "They couldn't afford the bad publicity the communists would get if they sent home a bunch of men whose ribs were showing."

Rowley's 33 months of captivity ended Aug. 18, 1953, and he returned home to Mesa, Ariz., on Sept. 7. Not even two weeks later, he met Ruth Martin at a Friday night dance, and they married that November. Starting in 1983, they attended every Korean War Ex-POW reunion until Ruth's death in 2011.

"In a way, it's hard to come without her," he says. "She was a marvelous partner and companion."

Using the GI Bill, Rowley became a teacher, working 31 years for Mesa Public Schools. In 1974, he retired from the National Guard as a major. He's also an author; as the Korean War Ex-POW Association's historian, Rowley has self-published five books about U.S. prisoners of war in Korea.

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# FRANKLIN "JACK" CHAPMAN

After his release from captivity, Jack Chapman started jotting down names and anything else he could remember about the men at his POW camps. Like so many others, he says he survived because of his fellow prisoners.

"I didn't want to forget these guys because they helped take care of me," he says. "I'm really thankful for what they did."

After landings at Inchon and Iwon, Chapman's platoon was assigned to Task Force Drysdale, sent to reinforce the garrison at Hagaru-ri at the southern tip of the Chosin Reservoir. In two days of fighting, he was wounded seven times. A shot to the head knocked him out.

On the evening of Nov. 30, 1950, Chapman regained consciousness. He was in a Korean hut with other troops. They'd been captured by the Chinese.

A U.S. Marine and British Royal Marine half-carried, half-dragged Chapman on a 19-day march to a temporary camp. On the way, he met Charlie Harrison, a Marine who had been a prisoner of the Japanese for 45 months during World War II.

Harrison asked Chapman how many pairs of socks he was wearing. "Two," he replied. Harrison told him to keep one pair under his arms, switching every time they stopped.

In a frigid Korean winter, "that saved my feet," he says.

Chapman paid these kindnesses forward. One man lost his sight, and Chapman led him to the latrine and on work details. Another lost his feet to frostbite, and Chapman helped make wooden carts so he could get around.



Postwar life was rough. The Army offered no help, Chapman failed a re-enlistment exam, and he struggled to keep up with his job.

He felt ashamed. He went to a bar with his uncle and a couple of friends, and the bartender asked where Chapman had been lately. "My uncle says, 'He was a POW in Korea.' The bartender says, 'Oh, he was one of those cowards.' I thought my uncle was going to go across that bar. We had to get him out of there."

The Air Force took Chapman, and he served 15 years. He was nearly kicked out for fighting, but a doctor persuaded him to turn his life around. He got an education and worked 21 years as a college police chief in Washington state.

In 1964, Chapman finally asked a doctor about his persistent headaches. An X-ray revealed a bullet in his head. Once it was removed, he felt like a new man.



#### FRED LIDDELL

When Fred Liddell was young, he dreamed of a long line of people marching and, off to the side, a man watching them from atop a gray horse.

The day Liddell marched into Ch'ang-Song, that's exactly what he saw. The man on the horse was the commander of all the POW camps.

The journey had been miserable, and Liddell had seen too much death. At the Suan mining camp, he and another sergeant, Obie Wickersham, had buried 36-year-old Pat Arthur, who earned the Silver Star for gallantry at Guadalcanal and was affectionately known as "Pop." Malaria and malnutrition took Arthur's life.

Liddell also saw abuse. For trivial offenses, POWs might be put in wooden cages, forced to sit with their legs straight.

On one occasion, Liddell was punished and made to stand against a wall with his arms out. Suddenly, his friend Clarence Young – a U.S. soldier of Chinese descent – was thrown through a door down the hall.

"They stick him right next to me," Liddell says. "Now I've got somebody where I can put my arm down on his head. Finally the guard goes to sleep and I ask Clarence what he got all mad about. He says, 'I told them the only smart thing my grandma ever did was get the hell out of China.' They were trying to recruit him to join their army, but he wouldn't do it."

Liddell left the Army on Oct. 28, 1953, and returned to his wife and 2-year-old daughter. He went to work for the telephone company in Eugene, Ore., on Nov. 5. When the company offered him stock shares, he recalled how his Chinese captors had lectured POWs on how capitalism was cheating the American people.

"I thought if the Chinese hated Wall Street so much, it must be good," he says. "Now I've got all kinds of shares in AT&T that built up and split and all that. In a lot of ways, the Chinese did me some good."

In 2009, Liddell and Wickersham were notified that Arthur's remains had been recovered and identified, thanks in part to a dog tag Liddell hid on the body. Five years ago this month, they traveled to Arlington to finally lay their friend to rest in U.S. soil.





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Noel St. John

# DALLAS MOSSMAN

A native of Flint, Mich., Dallas Mossman decided to join the Army in the final months of World War II. As soon as he turned 17, he went to Aberdeen Proving Ground for training and then to Germany.

When he returned in 1948, he got in line with thousands of other soldiers at Camp Kilmer to be processed out. Hearing he could avoid a wait and leave immediately if he volunteered for the reserve, he signed up for two years.

In November 1950, Mossman was working for Buick, days away from his reserve time being up, when he got orders to report to Fort Campbell, Ky. There, he learned that the Army had him for another year.

"I didn't know where Korea was," he says. "I had to go look at a world map to find it."

Once he got there, Mossman thought he'd do what he'd been trained to do: mechanic. "The sergeant tells me, 'You're going to the infantry.' I said, 'You can't do that.' He says, 'We just did.""

His company was ordered to Hill 1051 on the No-Name Line, and on May 17, 1951, that's where the Chinese got him. After shooting a few enemy soldiers, Mossman slid down the hill and came upon three comrades. Two Chinese were digging foxholes above them, and as rocks rolled down they pinged off their helmets, giving them away.

During his 817 days as a POW, Mossman often was in trouble for loudly resisting indoctrination. Instead of studying the communist newspapers, "I sat on the front porch and sang hillbilly songs, making the guy in charge of us mad," he says. "He was out to get rid of me, and he did."

Mossman was moved to another camp, where his days were spent digging trenches and going on wood details.

One of his worst days, early in captivity, was losing his foxhole buddy, Frank Plocha of Rocky River, Ohio, to dysentery – one of the chief causes of POW deaths in Korea.

After the war, Mossman drove trucks for Anchor Motor Freight. He and his late wife, Constance, had two children. In his memoirs, he says that he doesn't have any regrets about Korea, but that he wishes "everybody could have lived, not just me."

# ELLIS ALLEN

Captured at Kunu-ri Pass on Dec. 1, 1950, Ellis Allen remembers what he heard next: "We will not harm you. You are a prisoner of the People's Volunteers."

For six weeks, the Chinese marched "Big Al" and his group north, stopping at the Suan mining camp and then Pukchin-Tarigol, known as Death Valley.

"That's where we lost people, every night,"



Noel St. Joh

Allen says. "They'd come through there with a sled. Arms and legs would be hanging off it."

At Camp 4, the Chinese segregated prisoners by race. Allen remembers being taken to the headquarters in the middle of the night and asked, "How can you be so proud of your country when you're not a first-class citizen?" He replied, "I'm proud enough," adding that he'd treated his German prisoners right during World War II and expected his captors to do the same.

After his release, Allen re-enlisted in the Army, serving with the 2nd Armored in Germany – but only after checking a map, he says. He didn't want to be anywhere close to communists.

# ED SMITH

On the long march north to Pyoktong, Ed Smith ate one meal a day: whole-kernel corn, boiled. "We went by a big pot on the road,

and whatever you had to put it in, that's what you got," he recalls. "I had an old pilot's hat, so I turned it inside out."

In camp, Smith heard some men say, "I can't do this, I can't eat this food." They got weaker and skinnier by the day. But very few just gave up.

"The whole time I was a prisoner, what I feared more than anything was



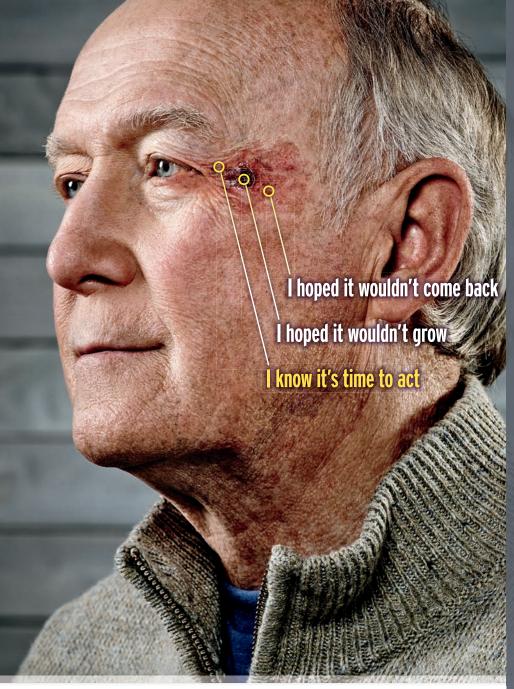
oel St. John

being liberated," he says. "I'd seen those World War II movies where the Japanese shot everybody first."

Instead, his release came with an ambulance ride across the line, a trip through a delousing tent, and a fresh set of khakis.

Smith stayed in the Army, retiring after 21 years. He served in France and Germany, and did a second tour in Korea in 1961. "Everybody said, 'You don't have to go,' but I said, 'I don't care. An assignment is an assignment.'

"I've never had anything bad to say about the military. I always thought it treated me pretty damn good."





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# Indication

Erivedge®(vismodegib) capsule is a prescription medicine used to treat adults with a type of skin cancer, called basal cell carcinoma, that has spread to other parts of the body or that has come back after surgery or that your healthcare provider decides cannot be treated with surgery or radiation.

# Important Safety Information

# What is the most important information I should know about Erivedge?

- · Erivedge can cause your baby to die before it is born (be stillborn) or cause your baby to have severe birth defects
- For females who can become pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about the risks of Erivedge to your unborn child. Your healthcare provider should do a pregnancy test within 7 days before you start taking Erivedge to find out if you are pregnant. Avoid pregnancy by using highly effective birth control before starting Erivedge, and continue during treatment and for 7 months after your last dose. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have unprotected sex or think that your birth control has failed
- For males, always use a condom with a spermicide during sex with female partners while you are taking Erivedge and for 2 months after your last dose, even if you have had a vasectomy
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you or your female partner could be pregnant or thinks she is pregnant while you are taking
- Erivedge

  Before taking Erivedge, tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed

# **Exposure to Erivedge during pregnanc**

Pregnant women are encouraged to participate in a program that collects information about exposure and the effects on the mother and her unborn child by calling the Genentech Adverse Event Line at (888) 835-2555.

What should I avoid while taking Erivedge?
Do not give blood or blood products during treatment with Erivedge and for 7 months after

# What are the possible side effects of Erivedge? The most common side effects of Erivedge are:

- Muscle spasms

- Change in how things Decreased appetite taste or loss of taste Constipation
  - Constipation
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Joint aches

These are not all of the possible side effects of Erivedge, and it is not possible to predict what side effects you will have or how severe they may be. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

You may report side effects to the FDA at (800) FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch. You may also report side effects to Genentech at (888) 835-2555

Please see the full Prescribing Information, including **serious side effects**, at Erivedge.com.

# **MEDICATION GUIDE**

# ERIVEDGE® (EH-rih-vej) (vismodegib) capsule

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking ERIVEDGE and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment.

# What is the most important information I should know about ERIVEDGE?

# ERIVEDGE can cause your baby to die before it is born (be stillborn) or cause your baby to have severe birth defects.

For females who can become pregnant:

- You should talk with your healthcare provider about the risks of ERIVEDGE to your unborn child.
- Your healthcare provider should do a pregnancy test within 7 days before you start taking ERIVEDGE to find out if you are pregnant.
- In order to avoid pregnancy, you should start using highly effective birth control before you start ERIVEDGE, and continue to use highly effective birth control during treatment, and for 7 months after your last dose of ERIVEDGE. Talk with your healthcare provider about what birth control method is right for you during this time.
- Talk to your healthcare provider right away if you have unprotected sex or if you think that your birth control has failed.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant or think that you may be pregnant.

#### For males:

- You should always use a condom with a spermicide, even if you have had a vasectomy, during sex with female partners while you are taking ERIVEDGE and for 2 months after your last dose to protect your female partner from being exposed to ERIVEDGE.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if your partner becomes pregnant or thinks she is pregnant while you are taking ERIVEDGE.

# **Exposure to ERIVEDGE during pregnancy:**

If you think that you or your female partner may have been exposed to ERIVEDGE during pregnancy, talk to your healthcare provider right away. Pregnant women are encouraged to participate in a program that collects information about exposure to ERIVEDGE during pregnancy, and the effects on the mother and her unborn child. This program is called the ERIVEDGE pregnancy pharmacovigilance program. You may participate in this program by calling the Genentech Adverse Event Line at 1-888-835-2555.

# What is ERIVEDGE?

ERIVEDGE is a prescription medicine used to treat adults with a type of skin cancer, called basal cell carcinoma, that has spread to other parts of the body or that has come back after surgery or that your healthcare provider decides cannot be treated with surgery or radiation.

It is not known if ERIVEDGE is safe and effective in children.

# What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ERIVEDGE?

Before taking ERIVEDGE, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. See "What is the most important information I should know about ERIVEDGE?"
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if ERIVEDGE passes into your breast milk. You and your healthcare provider should decide if you will take ERIVEDGE or breastfeed. You should not do both.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

# **How should I take ERIVEDGE?**

- Take ERIVEDGE exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- You can take ERIVEDGE with or without food.
- Swallow ERIVEDGE capsules whole. Do not open or crush the capsules.

- Take ERIVEDGE one time each day.
- If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose. Just take your next scheduled dose.

# What should I avoid while taking ERIVEDGE?

 Do not donate blood or blood products while you are taking ERIVEDGE and for 7 months after your last dose.

# What are the possible side effects of ERIVEDGE?

# ERIVEDGE can cause serious side effects, including:

 See "What is the most important information I should know about ERIVEDGE?"

The most common side effects of ERIVEDGE are:

- · muscle spasms
  - ορασιτι
- nausea
- hair loss
- diarrhea
- change in how things taste or loss of taste
- decreased appetiteconstipation
- · weight loss
- vomiting
- tiredness
- joint aches

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of ERIVEDGE. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

You may also report side effects to Genentech, Inc. at 1-888-835-2555.

#### **How should I store ERIVEDGE?**

 Store ERIVEDGE at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

# Keep ERIVEDGE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

#### **General information about ERIVEDGE**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use ERIVEDGE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ERIVEDGE to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about ERIVEDGE. If you would like more information, ask your health care provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for the FDA-approved information about ERIVEDGE that is written for healthcare professionals.

For more information, call 1-855-737-4833 or visit www.erivedge.com

# What are the ingredients in ERIVEDGE?

Active ingredient: vismodegib; Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, sodium lauryl sulfate, povidone, sodium starch glycolate, talc, magnesium stearate (non bovine). The capsule shell contains gelatin, titanium dioxide, red iron oxide, and black iron oxide. The black printing ink contains shellac and black iron oxide.

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

MG Issued: 01/2012

Manufactured by: Patheon, Inc. Mississauga, Canada

Distributed by:

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# WILLIE FREEMAN

You could say that 12 is Willie Freeman's number. He signed up for the draft on Feb. 12, 1945. He was recalled for Korea on Oct. 12, 1950. He was captured on Feb. 12, 1951, and spent 930 days as a prisoner of war.

His three-month march to the camp at Ch'ang-Song was one of terror and close calls. Freeman was captured twice. The first time, at Hoengsong, he fought until he ran out of ammunition. The enemy caught up with him after he zigzagged across a rice paddy and took a bullet in the leg.

After a few days in a village, Freeman and other wounded soldiers persuaded the Chinese to let them go. That night, they walked onto a moonlit battlefield littered with American dead, many frozen and stripped of their clothes.

"The American public does not really know what happened, the atrocities that went on," he says.

He was recaptured by North Koreans, who took the prisoners' leather boots and loaded them with heavy packs. Those who didn't keep up were shot.

Freeman had a wife, Barbara, and two children back in Georgia. She'd been told he was missing, and in August received a letter from him marked "Via Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and Against American Aggression." She had to send it to Washington for handwriting verification because Freeman's name wasn't on any POW list.

After the war, Freeman took the advice of a friend and fellow POW, "the first black man I'd ever met who was educated. He told me, 'Willie, you need to go back and finish your education." He got his high school diploma, studied food technology and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 43 years.

He left Korea with a scrap of paper on which he'd scrawled the names of 10 men who died on the road to the POW camps.

"I'd been home two weeks when I went to a family here in Georgia to tell them about their son," he says. "His mother said to me, 'Did you see them bury him?' I said, 'No, ma'am.' She said, 'Well, then, you don't know whether he's dead or not.' She was holding on to hope that he would make it."

# CECIL PHIPPS

When Cecil Phipps got to Korea on Aug. 1, 1950, he weighed about 190 pounds. After his first winter in captivity, he was down to 75 pounds, eating only millet, sorghum or cracked

corn - "never any rice, and no meat," he says.

"Every morning a Chinese soldier opened the door and yelled, 'How many dead?' That's all he could say in English. There was always one or two."

After coming home, "I dreamed about him constantly," Phipps says. "I'd wake up swinging. But my wife understood the problems I was having and stayed with me."





being released until he was put on a truck with other prisoners, and every few miles the Chinese guard would get off and another would board. When an American GI hopped on, everyone cheered.

Though Phipps has never been back to Korea, he treasures a gift from a family friend. The young man's grandfather was a South Korean senator and received two watches from the nation's president. In appreciation for his Korean War service, the senator's grandson gave them to Phipps.

# VERNON RAY

His commander offered Vernon Ray a deal: he'd go to the front for nine days and get to leave Korea a month early. "We were good until the last night," he says. "Then we got attacked."



Noel St. John

Ray was the only Marine who came out of his bunker alive, "bleeding like a stuck pig" from pieces of shrapnel in his foot.

His captors removed most of them, but it was seeing another soldier die that truly hurt. "He was all ripped up," Ray says. "His privates were shot out. That's the worst feeling, when a guy asks you to help him but you can't. It pains me todav."

Ray spent six months in captivity, including a few days in solitary confinement. His happiest moment in camp – if one could truly be happy – was seeing a MiG fighter shot down in a dogfight. "That made you feel real good," he says.

After Ray's release, he married and had two children. He worked for Chrysler in Detroit and retired in 1987.

Matt Grills is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

# Last Rites

As demand at national veterans cemeteries soars, VA scrambles to add burial space – and one community takes matters into its own hands.

**BY KEN OLSEN** 



ristie Roberts' family was disheartened to learn that she didn't qualify for burial in the national veterans cemetery near their home in upstate New York. It was Roberts' wish when she first enlisted in the National Guard in 2002, and her last request when she died in August 2012.

"She left a note when she committed suicide that said her wish was to be cremated and buried in the cemetery where her grandfather was buried," says Roberts' mother, Cindy. But interment at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery or any other VA burial ground wasn't possible, her family learned, because Roberts' deployment orders said she'd been on training missions instead of active duty.

That was unacceptable. "Both my husband and I felt like there wasn't anything else we could do for her," Cindy says. "We had to fight until there were no options left."

Tens of thousands of other veterans' families share the Roberts' determination to bury their loved ones in these revered national burial grounds. "A national cemetery is maintained at a very high level," says Ami Neiberger-Miller of Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). "It honors service and sacrifice in a way that is very beautiful for families."

This sentiment, an aging veterans population and increasing awareness of burial benefits have VA scrambling to add cemetery space at the fastest pace since the Civil War. Demand has tripled in the past 20 years and isn't expected to peak until 2017. VA also wants to increase the number of veterans who choose national cemeteries.

Nearly 4 million veterans from every conflict since the Revolutionary War are interred in 131 national veterans cemeteries run by VA in the United States and Puerto Rico (the Army administers Arlington National Cemetery). The agency has opened 19 new cemeteries since 1997 and is in the process of adding five more. It also offers a few burial sites in national cemeteries that are officially full when remains are removed and reinterred elsewhere. (That's the case at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, for example, where the remains of previously unknown Korean War veterans have recently been identified and moved.)

VA is expanding existing national cemeteries, funding veterans burial sections in community cemeteries, and providing grants to states and tribes to build their own veterans cemeteries. Overall, some 90 percent of veterans should have



Photo courtesy Roberts famil

"reasonable access to a burial option within a 75-mile radius of their home" as of this fiscal year, the agency says.

That still leaves millions of veterans and families without convenient access to national cemeteries. Eleven states with a total of 1.8 million veterans don't have one. Six of those states – Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota – are hundreds of miles from the nearest national cemetery. "Think of the families who don't get to go see their loved ones," says Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev.

Titus, who is the ranking member of the House Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, is on a mission to change that. "A national cemetery has a higher standard and better management and oversight," she says. "You shouldn't be denied that privilege just because you happen to live west of the Mississippi."

VA has plans for an additional 18 national burial facilities over the next 10 years, she adds. Surely one or two of the national cemeteries could be in one of these six Western states.

'WE FOUGHT FOR THIS NATION' Under VA's strict population criteria, at least 80,000 veterans must live within a 75-mile radius of a potential national cemetery site. By Titus' calculations, 170,000 veterans alone live in the Las Vegas area, which is part of her southern Nevada district. But

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. . . .

VA says that not enough live within the required radius to justify a site.

So instead of constructing a national cemetery in Nevada, VA is buying a section of burial plots for veterans in a local cemetery in Elko, Nev., 430 miles to the north. The agency also notes that all the states without national cemeteries, including Nevada, have at least one state veterans cemetery.

But a state cemetery doesn't address the needs of many veterans and families, says Janet Snyder of Las Vegas, legislative chair of the National Society of Military Widows, and a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 149 and other veterans organizations.

"A state cemetery is kind of second-class," says Snyder, who placed a memorial marker for her late husband, Tom, at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City because she felt like she didn't have any other option. "I would have preferred a national cemetery. It seems much more prestigious and more of an honor for our military heroes."

Although it's a nice facility, there have been problems at the state cemetery over the years, Titus adds. "There was an example where they didn't follow the rules, and the crews were taking the old gravestones and building patios out of them," she says. "And one veteran who was interviewed for a little TV spot on this topic said, 'We fought for this nation, not this state. We deserve to be in a national veterans cemetery.' I think that says it all."

It's also a major undertaking for Snyder and other widows to visit Boulder City, though it's only an hour away. Like Snyder, many of them don't drive.

"We've got World War II widows whose husbands are buried at Boulder City," says Snyder, 73, whose husband served in Vietnam during his 20-year Army career. "Last time one of them got carsick. She said, 'I'm not sure I can do this again.'"

"If it was here in the Las Vegas area," she adds, "I could ride my bicycle or take a bus."

The hassles extend beyond getting to the cemetery for birthdays, the anniversary of a loved one's death and Memorial Day. When friends and family visit Snyder, they also want to go out and place flowers or a flag at her husband's marker. "It takes a lot out of the precious time they are here," she says.

'I WOULD MOVE MY LOVED ONE HOME' Some states have given up on landing new national cemeteries and plan to tap VA's grant program to build their own facilities. Last summer, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez announced plans to establish up to four veterans cemeteries to serve her state's



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rural reaches, hundreds of miles from the national cemeteries in Santa Fe and Fort Bayard, N.M., or Fort Bliss, Texas.

The governor has asked communities to apply to host one of the new cemeteries. Under her plan, the state will recoup a large portion of the costs from VA.

Carlsbad has decided to build a veterans cemetery to national standards even if it's not selected. The southeastern New Mexico community has been trying to get a veterans cemetery for 20 years, says Adon Rodriguez, who is spearheading the Carlsbad Veterans Cemetery project. Since the latest effort was announced three years ago, "I've had 10 families call me and say, 'If we had a veterans cemetery, I would move my loved one home" from the national cemetery in Santa Fe, he says. These aging families can no longer travel to see their loved ones' graves.

The city has donated 4½ undeveloped acres in an existing cemetery called Sunset Gardens. and there's the promise of additional land in the future if needed. "We have a beautiful location

a quarter mile from the Pecos River, real quiet, farm fields all around it," Rodriguez says.

The Carlsbad Veterans Cemetery project is attracting cash donations from citizens and companies, as well as pledges of free labor and material from local contractors. The Eddy County Commission has offered to pave the parking lot and driveways. A consultant is helping ensure that the cemetery is constructed to VA's national standards. With any luck, Rodriguez says, VA will one day adopt the Carlsbad cemetery.

"We're shooting real hard, hoping we'll be a national cemetery," says Rodriguez, who served six years in the National Guard in the 1950s. "If we finish this cemetery, maybe I can qualify to be buried with my fellow veterans."

For the Roberts family, Kristie's burial in the Saratoga national cemetery was about more than laying her to rest with her fellow veterans and honoring her service as a paramedic. She took her

> re-enlistment oath at her grandfather's grave in 2010, noting how proud he was to see her in uniform just before he died on Christmas eight vears earlier.

"She first enlisted at 17. She had always been patriotic, a volunteer from the get-go," Cindy Roberts says. Both Kristie and her grandfather, Robert, an Army veteran, were members of American Legion Post 374 in Lake George, N.Y. "She was a granddaughter to make her grandpa proud."

Kristie's parents started contacting public officials for help soon after she died. "I felt like it was one brick wall after another," Cindy says. They eventually connected with TAPS, which helped them apply for a burial waiver, which can only be granted by the VA secretary. U.S. Rep. Bill Owens, D-N.Y., also worked on their behalf.

Thirteen months later, they received permission to place Kristie's ashes next to her grandfather, a kindness made possible in part because her grandmother relinquished her burial plot.

"I was pleased," Cindy says. "She would have gone anywhere in the world they sent her without question. We should not have had to fight that hard to finally get permission for Kristie to be laid to rest in the national cemetery. No veteran's family should."

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

# CEMETERY AND BURIAL RESOURCES

There are several Internet-based tools for getting more information about VA burial benefits, national cemetery locations and gravesite locators.

# www.cem.va.gov/burial\_benefits/index.asp

You can also call one of The American Legion's service officers for free expert assistance with any questions on VA burial benefits. Find the nearest service officer online:

www.legion.org/serviceofficers

Locate the nearest national veterans cemetery:

www.va.gov/directory/guide/ division\_flsh.asp?dnum=4

Find a gravesite:

gravelocator.cem.va.gov

Download the Gravesite Locator for smartphones and other mobile devices:

m.va.gov

Gravesites can also be located by writing to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (43A1) **Burial Location Request** 810 Vermont Ave. NW Washington, DC 20420

Include the individual's name, alternate spellings, birth and death dates, branch of service and the state where the individual joined the military.



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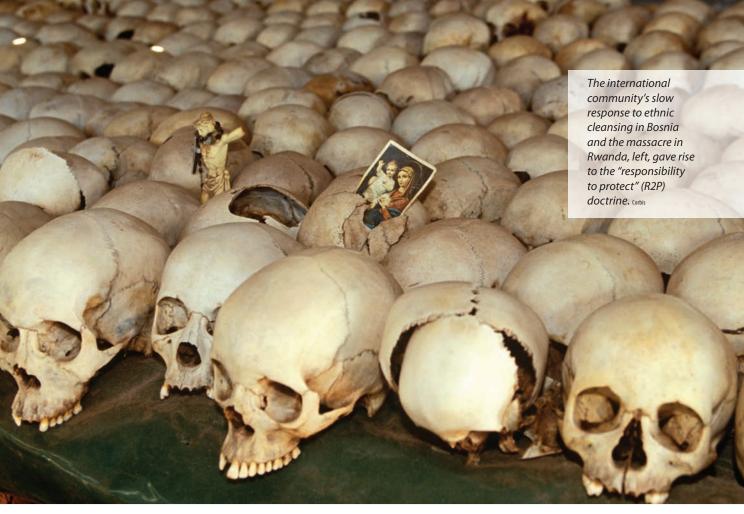
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# ROAL

**Good intentions** aside, the **United Nations'** R2P doctrine would take the decision of U.S. intervention out of our hands.

BY ALAN W. DOWD

Civil wars in Libya and Syria have revived the debate over military intervention in humanitarian crises.

President Obama argues that "force can be justified on humanitarian grounds ... responsible nations must embrace the role that militaries with a clear mandate can play to keep the peace." In fact, he defended his decision to intervene militarily in Libya by citing "our responsibilities to our fellow human beings," concluding that when U.S. interests and values are at stake, "we have a responsibility to act."

Pointing to the tragedy in Syria, French President François Hollande has argued that the international community should "punish those who took the decision to harm the innocent," adding, "International law must evolve with the times. It cannot serve as an excuse to allow mass murder."

These pronouncements are an outgrowth of the "responsibility to protect" doctrine – "R2P" in the United Nations' abbreviation-laden lexicon. As U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon explains, R2P holds that nation-states have an obligation "to protect their populations – whether citizens or not – from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and from their incitement." R2P also aims "to help states succeed" and "meet one of their core responsibilities," namely protecting their citizens.

All of that sounds eminently reasonable. Protecting one's population from crimes against humanity seems like the minimum requirement for a civilized government, and helping weak and failing states live up to the obligations of governance is time (and money) well spent by the international community.

But if the first half of R2P is reasonable, the second is radical. According to Ban, U.N. members also have a "responsibility to respond in a timely and decisive manner ... to help protect populations from the four listed crimes and violations."

In other words, R2P would oblige outside powers to intervene to prevent or stop those violations. As U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said of the civil war in Syria, R2P "should have compelled ... the international community to step in earlier, lend advice and assistance, and prevent the situation from reaching its current metastatic proportions."

As Ban concedes – understatedly – R2P "could have profound implications."

ROAD TO DAMASCUS The R2P concept is not new. In fact, it grew out of the international community's painfully slow response to the ethno-religious war in Bosnia (which claimed some 200,000 lives between 1992 and 1995) and its failure to respond at all to the machete massacre in Rwanda (which claimed 800,000 lives in 1994). In the wake of those civil wars, then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued for "timely intervention by the international community when death and suffering are being inflicted on large numbers of people."

Genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity are not recent phenomena, but the fusion of mass murder and mass communications – "the CNN effect," as it's been called – is. In other words, it's easy to understand why R2P has gained traction in an age when man-made famine in Africa, ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and government-sponsored massacres in the Middle East are broadcast for the world to see in real time.

Consider Libya, where a NATO-led air armada intervened after Moammar Qaddafi threatened to exterminate his Benghazi-based opposition. Reasonable people disagree about the merits of this course of action. Given that not intervening would likely have allowed Qaddafi to turn Libya into another Rwanda, a strong case can be made that it prevented a massacre, which explains why many observers saw Libya as a test run for R2P.

R2P advocates expected NATO to round up and lead another posse when the Arab Spring revolt turned deadly in Syria. However, the humanitarian cavalry never materialized, which is difficult to understand given that Bashar Assad has turned Syria into another Bosnia. Indeed, he has done far worse to his people than Qaddafi did to his.

This inconsistency of application is one of the many problems with R2P. If the people of Benghazi and Kosovo are worthy of protection, then why aren't the people of Damascus and Kigali? And if the people of Damascus and Kigali are not worthy of a helping hand, why were the people of Benghazi and Kosovo?

**THANKLESS WORK** Beyond inconsistency of application, expecting – let alone requiring – members of the U.N. Security Council to intervene whenever a government fails to live up to the murky definition of "protecting" its population is problematic and downright dangerous for the world's lone superpower.

First, R2P taken to its logical conclusion will increase the heavy burdens on a shrinking U.S. military, while decreasing America's freedom of action and independence. The U.S. military, after all, is already the world's first responder and last line of defense. Playing this role in pursuit of an enlightened self-interest that is guided by U.S. policymakers, promotes U.S. goals, serves the national interest and helps the world's unfortunates along the way is one thing. Doing it as handmaiden to the United Nations, the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the European Union (EU) – or just because CNN decides "something must be done" – is quite another.

That brings us to a second problem with R2P: when it comes to the trigger for intervention, who

at the United Nations, the ICC, the EU or CNN decides what justifies an R2P intervention?

R2P advocates are quick to answer that an intervention can be triggered only by genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity or by inciting such actions. Of course, as horrible as they are, these are all subjective terms. Just ask the Syrian government and the Free Syrian Army; Qaddafi's henchmen and their Benghazi-based opposition; South Sudan and Sudan; the Taliban and NATO; the Egyptian military and the Muslim Brotherhood; Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia; Rwanda's Hutus and Rwanda's Tutsis; Russia and Chechnya; Saddam Hussein's regime and its victims and those who liberated those victims.

Indeed, everyone from British Prime Minister Tony Blair to Gen. Tommy Franks was accused of war crimes during the Iraq war.

After NATO intervened in Libya, the Russian Foreign Ministry called on the ICC to investigate "all cases of NATO bombing that caused civilian casualties."

The ICC has conducted a "preliminary examination" of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. "We have to check if crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide have been committed," the ICC prosecutor said in a *Wall Street Journal* interview.

The effect of these farcical episodes is to make it less likely that Americans would ever embrace the R2P doctrine. The words of a British member of Parliament seem apt: "If the world wants us to act as the international policeman, then let the world say so, because in the past when we have done so the world has not tended to thank us."

**HELPING THE HELPLESS** The purpose here is not to toss every use of military force into a soup of moral relativism. For most Americans, it's easy to decipher the good guys from the bad guys, the use of force to stop a wrong from the use of force to commit a wrong, a legitimate act of war from a war crime. But that sort of common sense is not so common in the halls of the United Nations.

Nor is the purpose here to argue that the United States should never engage in humanitarian interventions. In fact, Americans have a proud history of helping the helpless. Among the places the U.S. military has intervened on humanitarian grounds are Libya (2011), Haiti (2004 and 1994), Liberia (2003), Kosovo and East Timor (1999), Bosnia (1995), Somalia (1992), Iraqi Kurdistan (1991), West Berlin (1948), Cuba (1898) – and the list goes on.



Crowds gather at a mass funeral for more than 300 civilians killed in a shelling attack by Assad militias in Khalydiah, Syria, in February 2012. Corbis

Indeed, long before U.S. forces triaged postwar Bosnia, fed Somalia, protected the Kurds and Kosovars and shielded Benghazi – long before President Obama declared that "force can be justified on humanitarian grounds" – President Theodore Roosevelt argued against "coldblooded indifference to the misery of the oppressed." Even when "our own interests are not greatly involved," he concluded, there are times to act "in the interest of humanity at large."

Of course, most U.S. interventions have strategic as well as humanitarian implications. In Roosevelt's day, for instance, the war with Spain not only liberated the oppressed people of Cuba; it also ousted a hostile foreign power from the Western Hemisphere and strengthened America's position in the Pacific. Likewise, in 1948 and 1949, the Berlin Airlift rescued a city from starvation while dealing a blow to Stalin.

The point is this: why the United States intervenes militarily – a shock to the conscience, a tug on the heartstrings, a threat to the national interest or some combination of these – should be determined by the president and Congress. It's not the U.N. secretary-general's prerogative. Moreover, when and where the United States intervenes is up to the American people and their elected representatives – not some malleable U.N. mandate.

As our elected representatives watch the headlines, weigh the next humanitarian intervention and downsize the U.S. military, they would do well to heed Roosevelt's counsel. "The cases in which we could interfere by force of arms," he observed, "are necessarily very few."

Alan W. Dowd is a contributing editor for The American Legion Magazine.



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# FULL COMMAND \*\*La Virginia Women's

Institute for Leadership, cadets focus on earning others' respect and setting an example worth following.

**BY PHILIP M. CALLAGHAN** 

Institute for Leadership (VWIL) at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va., home of the nation's only all-female corps of cadets, has groomed young women for military command.

First directed by the late Brenda Bryant, the corps seeks to develop a style of leadership that emphasizes respect and inspiration over harshness and intimidation.

"Good leadership is a person who can relate to other people, who can talk to them, get them to open up," says retired Army Brig. Gen. Michael Bissell, who served as VWIL's commandant for more than 10 years. "But they've got to be able to hold that line so when it becomes serious, people know it."

Some first-year cadets think they must be tough all the time to succeed as leaders, Bissell says. They do "a lot of screaming and yelling, and I'm not for that. I was never that way as a commander. I don't think that's what leadership is in this day and age. You can be mad when you need to be and raise hell, but don't be that way all the time. Be respectful of the people under you. Help them."

Melissa Patrick, VWIL's deputy commandant, shares that philosophy. A retired Army colonel with 28 years in the Military Intelligence Corps, she says that one of the most important lessons from her career is that effective leadership needs "to factor in what people are going through – you have to build rapport with them. You can't just be focused on the rules. You have to appreciate what people are dealing with and try to lead them through difficult situations. I put emphasis on leadership by inspiring people, as opposed to leadership by driving them."

Mary Baldwin offers cadets a professional leadership model based on inspiring subordinates and earning their trust and respect.

Circumstances sometimes demand a more stern approach to those under your command, says VWIL graduate Mei-Ling Fye Guarino, who serves as a captain in the Army Logistics Corps. But leadership is "really figuring out how to be flexible and adaptive, and recognizing different situations, and the right type of tone to take. I've rarely yelled at soldiers, because I never think that yelling at other people is appropriate. What kind of results do you think you're going to get?"

Today's military requires different handling, Guarino says. "We give an order, but we have to give them the purpose, the direction, the 'why.' VWIL, as a leadership program, is very adaptive to the current generation; it isn't just a military prep school. As a leader, you are serving those you lead, not the other way around."

Army Maj. Rachel O'Connell, a military intelligence officer and VWIL graduate, says the military has changed quite a bit since she joined in 2002.

"Where things used to be extremely 'in your face' and there was a 'beat you down and build you back up' mentality, it's changed to more of 'building you from where you are.' And I think VWIL has done that very well, how to do that with people as they prepare for their military career or for civilian life – helping build you to what you need to be successful in the future."

VWIL stands apart from other military schools, too, because it is truly a cadet-run operation, with only four staff members providing oversight. The corps is responsible for maintaining the program's standards; it has no hired staff to serve as tactical officers. The disciplinary system is largely maintained by cadets. They do their own room and uniform inspections, lead physical training and make their own training schedules.

Although the many unique experiences VWIL provided were not always easy, those experiences are now the greatest reminders that anything in life is possible. VWIL prepared me for all types of challenges, including leading men and women in a combat zone, leading nonmilitary personnel in a business environment and being an effective follower when appropriate.

VWIL graduate Amy Enz, who served as an intelligence analyst in Afghanistan

Elizabeth Limerick, who graduates in May and plans to serve as an officer in the Virginia National Guard, has learned that "it doesn't matter how much you plan, how many questions you ask beforehand – there's always going to be something that happens and you're just going to have to react to it." VWIL has taught her how to approach such situations. "What's the actual goal? What are we trying to accomplish? What can I do to get us there because of this curveball? I've learned how to think on my feet, how to react quickly and accomplish whatever we're aiming for."

O'Connell says she believes the corps program does an outstanding job preparing cadets for just about any challenge they'll face in the future, civilian or military. "VWIL instills resource management, time management, how to deal with difficult situations, different ways of interacting with individuals."



Cadets fire a salute during a memorial service for Air Force 1st Lt. Sarah Small, the first VWIL graduate to die in the line of duty. A native of Herndon, Va., Small was killed in a vehicle accident during a training exercise in Egypt. About 500 people attended her burial at Arlington National Cemetery. The Sarah K. Small Award is given annually to cadets who exemplify service and commitment to community and country, and who receive military commissions. Photo courtey Mary Baldwin College

Guarino says those lessons are essential in knowing how to find the best solutions. "My level of critical thinking and problem solving was different than my peers because I had four years of practical exercises, making decisions and seeing the outcome, and having to fix problems – or fix my mistakes – and realize the impact of my decisions."

Guarino has worked with many excellent officers from different military programs, but says she "felt much better prepared for difficult situations."

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Terry Djuric, who replaced Bissell as commandant last October, appreciates VWIL's singular focus on individual leadership training in a team-building environment. "This program has a laser focus on developing future leaders and citizens of character, and that's what I wanted to be a part of," she says.

The cadets stay very busy, and each one handles the program's accumulated stress differently, Djuric says. They are told that it's fine to not volunteer for everything and that academics always come first. "I don't have need for you in the corps if you can't keep your grades up. So there's a little bit of balance in there that I'm watching, but it's all good. It is immense dedication to what they believe in."

While VWIL is America's only single-gender program for military cadets, the women take coed classes through the ROTC program at Virginia Military Institute and participate in field exercises with VMI.

One of their instructors, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Teninty, teaches leadership and management. "I'm genuinely impressed with their resolve. They sit in front of the class, they pay attention, they get good grades and they do very well." But the bottom line is whether cadets – male or female – can do their

jobs. "What I see from the VWIL cadets is that they will be able to. They're competent, they're capable in my program and I'm proud of them."

Djuric says she intends to build on Bryant's and Bissell's foundation by cultivating a leadership style anchored in mutual respect, inspiring action and "modeling the behavior that you want to see as a professional way to operate. Standing over someone and barking orders at them because you believe you've been given that responsibility doesn't always inspire action."

The stereotyped, adversarial examples of military leadership seen in war movies is not what Djuric wants for her cadets. That kind of browbeating behavior "doesn't develop a team-building environment where people can excel. You have to empower people, not just do it yourself."

VWIL's program may not be a good fit for everybody because it is structured for "accepting greater responsibility," Guarino says. "You're always 'on parade,' you always watch your words and deeds because people are always watching what you do. You're really given the opportunity to lead and learn about yourself and what kind of person you can be for others as a leader."

With the challenge comes a promise, however. Besides getting a high-quality education at Mary Baldwin, Djuric says the VWIL program offers women timeless lessons in citizenship and good character. "We're going to give you the core values that you will live by the rest of your life, because you believe in them so strongly," she says. "You'll understand about honor and integrity, about making the right choices, having confidence in yourself and having confidence in your team."

Philip M. Callaghan is media marketing director for The American Legion.

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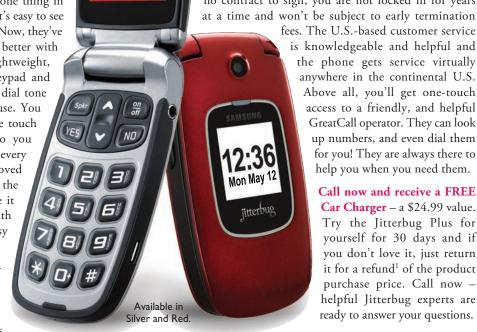
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# Destination CHARLOTTE

The Queen City plays host to the 96th American Legion National Convention Aug. 22-28, with unique attractions and savory dishes to sample while in town.

Photos courtesy Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority

# 5 things to know about Charlotte

- 1. Charlotte's nickname, the Queen City, comes from Germanborn Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III, who ruled England when the city was incorporated. The county of Mecklenburg was also named for her; Charlotte was born in Germany's Mecklenburg-Strelitz area. When in Charlotte, notice how some of the architecture takes on a crown shape – a nod to the queen.
- 2. Bring your suntan lotion and an umbrella. Extreme weather conditions are rare for the city, allowing year-round use of its 210 parks and dozens of public and semiprivate golf courses. During August, Charlotte averages a high of 88 degrees and a low of 67. August is the wettest month for the city, with an average of 4.22 inches of rain.
- 3. Center City Charlotte is referred to as "Uptown" instead of downtown because it is the highest point in the area. area is hilly.



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# 5 things to try in Charlotte

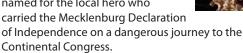


1. Two styles of barbecue. In North Carolina, barbecue is usually pork served pulled, shredded or chopped, but sometimes sliced. Two styles dominate different parts of the state: Eastern North Carolina barbecue is made using the whole hog; the entire pig is barbecued and the meat is chopped and mixed together. It has a thin sauce of vinegar and spices.

Western North Carolina barbecue is made from only the pork shoulder, which is mainly dark meat, and uses a vinegar-based sauce that includes tomato. This style is also known as Lexington barbecue, after the town of Lexington, N.C.

www.saveur.com/article/travels/east-vs-westcarolina-pulled-pork

- 2. **Shrimp and grits.** Charlotte chefs have put their own spin on this traditional Southern dish. Around town, you can find versions with bacon, sweet potatoes and even an Asian twist.
- 3. Craft beers. North Carolina boasts more craft breweries than any other southern state. Among the favorites are Birdsong Brewing's Jalapeño Pale Ale and The Olde Mecklenburg Brewery's Captain James Jack Pilsner, named for the local hero who carried the Mecklenburg Declaration



- www.charlottebeer.com
- 4. Samples on the wine trail. More than 100 vineyards have made North Carolina ninth among U.S. states in wine and grape production. Yadkin Valley Wine Tours gives visitors the opportunity to sample a variety of the state's best.
  - www.yadkinwinetours.com
- 5. **Center City carriage tour.** Take a horse-drawn carriage tour through Uptown Charlotte, past historic churches, towering skyscrapers and the Historic Fourth Ward, home to a mix of picturesque Victorian homes, luxury condominiums, urban apartments, businesses and parks.
  - www.southernbreezes.com





# 5 things to do in Charlotte

1. **NASCAR Hall of Fame.** Open seven days a week, the hall celebrates NASCAR's history and heritage. More than 50 interactive exhibits, such as the Pit Crew Challenge and simulators, allow guests to experience racing's sights and sounds. Memorabilia and stock cars chronicle NASCAR's origins to the present day. Senior and military discount tickets are available.

www.nascarhall.com

**Note:** On Aug. 23, the hall will offer an Irwin Tools Night Race viewing party at Bristol Motor Speedway. The 278-seat High Octane Theater features high-back seating and a 64-foot-wide, curved projection screen. Admission is \$10; seats may be limited.

www.nascarhall.com/events/ race-viewing-parties

- 2. Charlotte Motor Speedway. The "Mecca of Motorsports" offers special tours to navigate two infield race tracks, visit pit road and take a photo in Victory Circle. The "Over the Wall Tour" allows visitors to cruise down pit road and experience the feel of 24-degree banking firsthand. Senior and military discount tickets are available.
  - www.charlottemotorspeedway.com/tours
- 3. **Carolinas Aviation Museum.** The Carolinas Aviation Museum offers an interactive journey through aviation history, featuring a collection of aircraft, helicopters and more, including the US Airways Flight 1549 plane that was safely landed on the Hudson River by Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger. The museum, about three miles from the airport, offers discounts to seniors and active-duty military. Note: The museum is not air-conditioned.
  - www.carolinasaviation.ora
- 4. **Levine Museum of the New South.** The Levine Museum of the New South, an interactive history museum, highlights pivotal events and people that have shaped the South since the Civil War. For information on individual and group admission prices and tours, call (704) 333-1887, ext. 503, or email tours@museumofthenewsouth.org. Sunday admission is free for individuals and families.
  - www.museumofthenewsouth.org
- 5. **Visit Shelby.** The American Legion World Series will be played in Shelby, N.C., less than an hour's drive from Charlotte. The series begins in mid-August and concludes with the championship game on Aug. 19.
  - www.legion.org/baseball



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Amis des Vétérans Américains

**BY JEFF STOFFER** 

ut on the hedgerow-stitched northwestern corner of France, the clock turns back each year to June 6, 1944, when Allied troops came by land, air and sea to liberate German-occupied Normandy and begin the long, bloody march to victory in the European theater of World War II.

Seventy years later, the narrow farm roads once again rattle under the wheels of green Army jeeps and half-tracks. Gray coastal skies are dotted with warplanes and parachutes. Men, women and children of all nationalities dress in vintage American uniforms, helmets and boots. They stroll past U.S. flags flying higher than any others, take in battle-scene re-enactments and wreath-laying

ceremonies, traverse the legendary beaches and stand before the graves of heroes.

Nearly every village, town and city in the region conducts observances, parades, dinners and other events to memorialize the invasion that changed the course of history. Tens of thousands pour into Normandy each year to meet, get autographs and shake hands with D-Day veterans, most of whom are now in their 90s, and to pay respects to those who never made it home alive.

At the center of all this is an organization that for decades has welcomed U.S. veterans and their families, along with active-duty military personnel and American Legion officials. Amis des Vétérans Américains (Friends of American Veterans) is



Normandy association to unveil new monument, host Liberty Banquet for 70th anniversary of D-Day invasion.

rooted in a spirit of French gratitude that extends back to a parade on the war-torn streets of Ste. Mère-Église on June 6, 1945, the first anniversary of the liberation.

As U.S. veterans began returning in larger numbers to Normandy, the need to provide housing, dinners, ceremonies and events grew. In the 1960s, with the publication of the best-selling book "The Longest Day" and the blockbuster movie based on it, the AVA and U.S. veterans organized "milestone-year" pilgrimages to Normandy for the 20th and 25th anniversaries. The visits became more frequent after parachutists – including many who jumped with the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions during the war – began re-enacting the late-night air assault of 1944, a public spectacle that was started by the AVA and continues today.

World War II veterans of the Normandy invasion sign autographs and meet visitors from multiple nations during a D-Day anniversary event coordinated by the AVA near La Fiére Bridge in France, site of one of the bloodiest small-arms battles in U.S. military history. Photobylefl Stoffer

On the 40th anniversary, Ronald Reagan became the first U.S. president to speak at a milestone anniversary of D-Day. His words about "the boys of Pointe du Hoc" are among the most remembered of his presidency. Following that, it became an expectation for world leaders to speak in Normandy on milestone years, a salute to the price paid in blood for freedom.

With the 70th anniversary this year, the AVA is welcoming American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger and American Legion Auxiliary President Nancy Brown-Park for ceremonies in and around Ste. Mère-Église, the first town liberated in the invasion.

An AVA-produced Liberty Banquet on June 7 is already nearly sold out and will be attended by hundreds, including active-duty U.S. military units, and will feature music by the Holland, Mich., American Legion Band.

The AVA will also unveil a monument on the town square of Ste. Mère-Église, dedicated to Allied troops who gave their lives fighting behind enemy lines in the invasion. A major expansion of the Airborne Museum and a low-altitude parachute jump are also on the AVA agenda.

"We must never forget those young Americans, most of whom aged 20 years or younger, who gave their lives for our liberty," says AVA President Maurice Renaud, whose father was the mayor of Ste. Mère-Église on D-Day and whose mother founded the AVA. "Each year, we are honored to host veterans and their families."

The association recently developed a new website – www.avanormandie.org – where photos, stories, calendars and information about the association and the new monument can be found. The AVA is also on Facebook.

Follow Commander Dellinger's official visit to Normandy for the 70th anniversary at **www.legion.org** during the first week of June.

Jeff Stoffer is director of The American Legion's Media & Communications Division.





JOB FAIR

# Valuable assets

On March 20, The American Legion and RecruitMilitary cosponsored a job fair for veterans and servicemembers to kick off the 54th Washington Conference. Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Denise Rohan addressed the crowd, saying, "This can be a life-changing day for you. This can be a chance to start a new career and give you an economically sound future."

John Lundberg, RecruitMilitary's director of events, urged jobseekers to not limit themselves when choosing which companies to approach. "The skills you learned in the military make you a leader," he said.

Both the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division and Germantown, Md., Post 295 had a presence at the event. The post signed up more than 50 new members.



Approximate number of veterans and active-duty servicemembers who attended the job fair



Employers with tables at the event, from Citibank and Visa to Home Depot and USAA

# Watch video coverage of Washington Conference

www.legion.org/ washingtonconference



At the Veterans Employment & Education Commission's Homeless Veterans Roundtable, attendees cheered not only a significant reduction in the

number of unsheltered veterans on the streets at night, but that housing for the homeless is "10 times what it was" about five years ago.

Eric Baxter, senior counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, briefed the Legislative Commission about the nationwide battles against U.S.



war monuments that have crosses and other Christian symbols. The Legion has filed amicus briefs in several such cases.



During Department Service Officer (DSO) School, representatives from the Department of Justice talked about the Radiation Exposure

Compensation Act (RECA) program. Since 1990, more than \$234 million in benefits has been awarded to eligible veterans who participated in U.S. above-ground atomic testing from 1945 to 1962. The program is scheduled to end in 2022.

Representatives from Student Veterans of America (SVA) released the results of their Million Records Project, a joint study between SVA,



VA and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), which show a graduation rate – **51.7** – for a sample of Post-9/11 GI Bill users similar to traditional college students and surpassing other nontraditional students.

# Miller receives Legion's public service award

U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, praised The American Legion at the Commander's Call on March 25, as Legion Family members prepared to go to Capitol Hill.

"Simply put, the work that you do – providing guidance to, and a voice for, those who have given so much on the battlefield – makes our job, passing legislation, just that much easier," Miller said. "Easier to improve the lives of the men and women who have worn the uniform of this nation, and increasing the accountability necessary to make sure that the Department of Veterans Affairs does its job as it is intended."

Following his remarks, Miller was presented with the Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award, given each year to a member of Congress who is doing good work on behalf of veterans.



**VERBATIM** 

They ask me, 'Where is America? Are you going to be there when we need you?' They see us pulling back. They see for five years we've talked about this shift to the Pacific. They're concerned.

**Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif.,** chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, on the global implications of a smaller U.S. defense budget

We work with a lot of (veterans service organizations), but the Legion really leads the way working with us.

Rhett Jeppson, associate administrator of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development, at the For HEROES entrepeneurship workshop for women veterans

You woke up the Congress and the American people, and we fixed this problem. Without you, it would not have happened.

**Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,** praising Legionnaires at the Commander's Call for their help in the COLA battles



# **COMMANDER TO CONGRESS:**

# 'Ease the burden' for veterans

On March 26, American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger called on Congress to be prepared for a huge influx of new veterans as deployments end and the armed services shrink.

Dellinger testified before a joint session of the U.S. House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees, outlining the Legion's concerns and legislative priorities for the current Congress. He began his oral testimony by characterizing this time as a "crucial threshold in history," with more than 1.2 million servicemembers soon to be discharged and entering the ranks of veterans. "(They) are coming home, looking to their elected leaders in Washington for fulfillment of responsibilities befitting their military sacrifices," Dellinger said.

In his remarks, Dellinger addressed the need for enhanced and expanded VA medical facilities and access to them, as well as mental health treatments and specialized care for women veterans. He criticized VA for delays and cost overruns in medical facility construction. He also called for action to improve accuracy and speed in processing veterans' benefits claims, as well as protection of the nation's defenses against the negative effects of a shrinking armed force and dramatically reduced funding for the military under the umbrella of sequestration.

Dellinger ended his testimony by promoting the Legion and its role as veterans advocate. "Through nearly 14,000 local posts in communities worldwide, along with a fast-growing digital media presence, The American Legion is the nation's largest voice of today's veterans," he said. "We have listened to the needs and expectations of those who served, and of their families. We know that today's veterans want education, employment, adequate housing, timely benefits and decent health care. Not only were such benefits promised from the day they enlisted, they are a small price for our nation to pay for the freedom and safety we enjoy."

Following Dellinger's testimony, members of the congressional panel asked questions and made comments. The highest-ranking enlisted servicemember in Congress, Rep. Tim Walz of Minnesota, offered an endorsement of the organization. "You are America's conscience," said Walz, urging the Legion to continue its work at the community level for the sake of future generations. "They need to know why we are blessed to live in this wonderful country."

In addition to his oral testimony, Dellinger submitted a 15-page written statement delineating and expanding on the Legion's current legislative priorities. Read it at **www.legion.org/publications**.

### **MEDICINE**

# X marks the spot

RevMedx has come up with a creative and practical way to treat battlefield wounds. It's called XStat, and it could revolutionize military medicine. As *Popular Science* reports, "When a soldier is shot on the battlefield, the emergency treatment can seem as brutal as the injury itself. A medic must pack gauze directly into the wound cavity, sometimes as deep as five inches into the body, to stop bleeding from an artery. It's an agonizing process that doesn't always work."

Enter RevMedx, which recently asked the FDA to approve XStat – "a modified syringe that injects specially coated sponges into wounds." These microsponges expand to fill the cavity and stop the bleeding. They are coated with a blood-clotting antimicrobial

substance, and marked with X shapes to help doctors see them on X-ray images – and ensure that they are not left in the wound after triage treatment.



# **VERBATIM**

I was in constant pain. If anyone came near me with a cellphone or a device with Wi-Fi, I would be in agony. But since I've moved to Green Bank, the illnesses have cleared up.



Diane Schou, who relocated more than 1,000 miles from lowa to live in Green Bank, W.Va., which is situated in the middle of the National Radio Quiet Zone. As of 2013, 36 Americans have moved to the wireless town, claiming electromagnetic sensitivity.

Source: Daily Mail



Photo by Brett Flashnia

# **HONOR & REMEMBRANCE**

# Post museum honors, educates

Throughout its history, the home of Post 3 in Greenville, S.C., has been a bomb shelter, a USO club and a place for square dances. In 2002, the building added museum to the list. Today, it educates residents, students and others on military history, thanks to the perseverance of 45-year post member Cecil Buchanan.

"Cecil really got it going," says Peter Butchart, volunteer director of the Cecil D. Buchanan War Museum. "He was guite a collector."

Buchanan first thought of turning the 1933 building into a post museum when he visited the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla. He pitched the idea to the post's executive committee, which approved the idea but told him it would never work.

It did. The post museum now averages 12,000 visitors a year from all 50 states and several foreign countries. Included among the thousands of pieces of memorabilia are:

- A display honoring U-2 pilot Rudolf Anderson, the only American killed by enemy fire during the Cuban Missile Crisis. A Greenville native, Anderson was shot down over Cuba in October 1962.
- The cap of Greenville's Lt. William Fuller, a Confederate soldier, with a bullet hole on the left side.
- Uniforms representing all the branches of service, including World War II Merchant Marines. Included is an admiral's uniform donated by Adm. Bill Goodwin.
- Bookshelves full of volumes about the U.S. military, wars, weapons and veterans. "We have one of the largest collections of war histories, even larger than the (South Carolina) state museum," Buchanan says.

Each year, more than 100 school groups – from elementary through high school and college – visit the museum. Students listen to presentations from veterans of war eras they are studying.

On June 23, 2013 – Buchanan's 62nd wedding anniversary – the post officially renamed the museum for him. At the ceremony, he was surprised to receive the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award.

Buchanan leads by example, Butchart says. Even when his health began to decline, he organized and joined in work nights at the museum.

"Cecil is very dedicated," Butchart says. "He works hard and is fun to work with. He's been a great example to all of us."

The Cecil D. Buchanan War Museum is located at Post 3, 430 N. Main St., Greenville, S.C. Admission is free.

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www.americanlegionmuseum.weebly.com

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# **HONOR & REMEMBRANCE**

# A TRIBUTE ON WHEELS

Veterans and their families see the People's Race Car as a way to celebrate service.

### BY MATT GRILLS

For 40 years, John Richardville never missed an Indianapolis 500 race.

After he left the Army, he lived across from the track while going to barber school. And every May, Richardville cut drivers' hair, just as he'd done for soldiers in Vietnam.

When his widow, Sheila, heard she could sponsor a race car in her husband's name, she jumped at the chance. What better way to remember his love for racing, and his military service, this Memorial Day weekend?

A member of Avon Post 145, Richardville "was the ultimate race fan," Sheila says. "This is a good tribute."

With a few thousand supporters, the People's Race Car is an attempt to enter an entirely noncorporate car into the Indianapolis 500. For \$100, an individual can put his or her name on the car – an opportunity that is getting the attention of military and veterans' families.

"We were surprised by how many veterans wanted to be sponsors of the People's Race Car," says Travis Tetrault of Cutters RT, the racing team behind the car. "Many families have asked about an 'In honor of' or 'In memory of' tribute to someone by sponsoring and placing their names on the car. As the grandson of a World War II veteran, I'm privileged to help recognize all of them – those serving on active duty, veterans and those who have passed on."

Lifelong fans of the 500, Tetrault and friend Jason Godby began talking last year about how to get a car in the race. Knowing they didn't have the money, they thought it would be fun to have regular fans – just like them – sponsor a car.

If the team meets its \$1 million goal, no corporate sponsor logos would appear on the car – only individuals' names, Tetrault says. Sarah Fisher Hartman Racing will operate the car with a driver yet to be named.

Kathie Mason took her son, Dylan O'Dell, to his first 500 race when he was 8. Now he's 22 and serving as an aviation electronics technician aboard USS *Harry S. Truman*. When he returns from deployment, she says he'll be surprised to see his name on an IndyCar: "Dylan O'Dell, USN."

"I thought it would be a great 'welcome home' gift," says Mason, a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 415 in Galveston, Ind. "He sacrifices a lot, being away at the holidays. But it's a choice he made when he enlisted, and it's a choice he's happy with."

Dave Davis is a Gulf War Army veteran and enthusiastic supporter of the People's Race Car. He is chairman of the Fallen Hoosier Heroes Memorial for Enduring Freedom, created by his stepfather, Donald Peen, a Vietnam War veteran who died of an Agent Orange-related illness in 2005.

"Because the Indianapolis 500 is run on Memorial Day weekend, it's fitting that a car in the race would be owned in some way by veterans and the loved ones of veterans," says Davis, who belongs to Post 318 in Westfield, Ind.

Sheila Richardville believes John would have been thrilled to have his name on the car, and that for many veterans' families, the People's Race Car can be a "racing memorial."

"Instead of taking flowers to the cemetery that are going to get thrown away in two days, put their name on that race car," she says.

Matt Grills is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Learn more about the People's Race Car:

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# **HONOR & REMEMBRANCE**

# **ARLINGTON AT 150**

Arlington National Cemetery is hosting a series of events to commemorate its 150th anniversary.

ANC 150 will begin May 13 with a wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of Army Pvt. William Christman, the first military burial at Arlington, and conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns on June 15, the day Arlington officially became a national cemetery. The cemetery will also offer lectures and tours highlighting U.S. history through the eyes of heroes buried at Arlington and military conflicts that shaped the cemetery and the nation.





# ANC 150 EVENTS (free and open to the public)

- Wreath-laying ceremony at Christman's grave, Section 27, by the Ord and Weitzel Gate, 9 a.m. May 13
- "The History of Arlington National Cemetery," Women In Military Service for America Memorial, 10:30 a.m.-noon May 13
- Renaming ceremony for the Old Amphitheater and Decoration Day observance, 5 p.m. May 30
- "Arlington at 150" Observance Program: A Tribute to Arlington's Past, Present and Future, featuring historical vignettes and musical performances, 8:30 p.m. June 13
- Wreath-laying ceremony, Tomb of the Unknowns, 9 a.m. June 15
- www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/events/anc150.aspx

# **SPECIAL GUIDED TOURS**

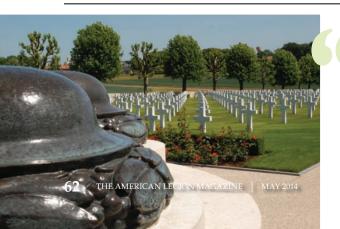
Arlington has partnered with ANC Tours by Martz Gray Line to provide a series of narrated tours exploring the cemetery's rich history. Tours are \$9 per person and include transportation around the cemetery, a speaker and a narrator from the Arlington National Cemetery History Office.

- The American Civil War, 2-5 p.m. May 19 and June 2
- Uncle Sam's Little Wars, 2-5 p.m. May 20
- World War I: Bringing our Heroes Home, 2-5 p.m. May 21 and June 3
- World War II: The Greatest Generation, 2-5 p.m. May 22
- U.S. Military and the Cold War, 2-5 p.m. May 23
- Late 20th Century to the Present, 2-5 p.m. June 4
- Monuments and Memorials, 2-5 p.m. June 5
- Medal of Honor, 2-5 p.m. June 6

Tickets for "Arlington at 150" tours are available for purchase online:

www.anctours.com/arlingtonat150.php





# **VERBATIM**

And they for who their country die shall fill an honored grave, for glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the brave.

> From "To the Defenders of New Orleans," by American poet Joseph Rodman Drake (1795-1820)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

# **NEW POSTS**

Panther Post 406, Melbourne, Fla. Chartered Feb. 14

(15 members)

Post 475, Brady, Texas

Chartered Feb. 6 (15 members)

Ridgefield Crossings Post 208, Ridgefield, Conn.

Chartered Jan. 28 (15 members)

Post 308, West Fargo, N.D. Chartered Jan. 28 (17 members)

Lenard Yates Post 709, Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Chartered Jan. 28 (15 members)

**Charlotte Correctional Facility** Post 405, Punta Gorda, Fla.

Chartered Jan. 28 (24 members)

Post 404, Marco Island, Fla. Chartered Jan. 28 (16 members)

Post 141, Pearce, Ariz.

Chartered Dec. 19 (15 members)

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# **CAREERS**

# How to get past the ATS gatekeeper



The most important thing to know about résumés you upload in response to job postings is that they must pass through applicant tracking systems (ATS) before they are ever read by humans. ATS search for specific keywords and keyword phrases – skills, requirements, attributes and

more that are essential for each position.

Knowing how to get past the ATS gatekeeper is essential. There are two points of critical consideration – content and format – and here are tips on both:

**CONTENT IS KING** Your résumé must have the right keywords for the jobs you are targeting. If the words are not there, it will not pass ATS. No exceptions. Keywords can include hard skills (logistics, purchasing), soft skills (flexibility, communication), location (Detroit), education (Colgate University), technology skills (HTML, networks) – the list is endless.

**FINDING KEYWORDS** The best resources for finding keywords are job postings. They are the words included in sections such as "Requirements include ..." or "Candidate must have skills in ...." Integrate these words into your summary, employment and education sections.

**CRITICAL FORMAT CONSIDERATIONS** Most ATS can now read Word résumés if you follow these rules:

- Put your name on a line by itself. If you want to include certifications or degrees after your name (PMP, MBA), put them on a second line.
- **Use standard fonts,** such as Arial, Calibri, Georgia, Tahoma and Times New Roman.
- **Use standard headings,** such as "Career Summary" or "Professional Profile," "Professional Experience" or "Employment Experience," "Education." Nothing out of the ordinary, or you run the risk that all information below that heading will be passed over.
- Do not use graphs, tables, charts or any other images. ATS cannot read them. Use only standard symbols found on your keyboard.

Résumé writing has changed remarkably in the past few years and is now driven by technology. Still, the goal hasn't changed; you want a résumé that showcases your qualifications, achievements and the value you deliver.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions" and "Expert Résumés for Career Changers."



Photo by Michael Mantucca

# **HONOR & REMEMBRANCE**

# Midwest city honors Middle East war dead

Emily Toro of the Bronx, N.Y., will be among thousands of Gold Star family members making an annual pilgrimage in June to Marseilles, Ill.

The small city is the site of the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial, the nation's oldest memorial dedicated to U.S. troops killed in Middle East wars. In a park overlooking the Illinois River, the memorial's dozen panels contain more than 7,600 names dating back to the early 1980s, when Americans were killed in Beirut and the failed Iran hostage rescue.

Toro hasn't missed the event since 2008. "I have to be here," says Toro, whose son, Pvt. Isaac Thomas Cortes, was killed in Iraq in 2007. "It's another way for me to honor my son – not just him, but all 7,000 names on this wall."

The day begins with the Illinois Motorcycle Freedom Run, which goes through the countryside to downtown Marseilles, where crowds and a festival atmosphere await. From there, Gold Star families and others walk a couple of blocks to the memorial to hear its names read and to comfort one another.

Afterward, American Legion Post 235 hosts a private meal for Gold Star families. Gene Thompson, a 60-year member of Post 235 and former Department of Illinois commander, says the families appreciate the free event. "We get letters from them," he says. "Sometimes they send us photos of their sons or daughters."

At this year's June 21 event, the names of at least 130 U.S. servicemembers killed in action during the previous 12 months will be added to the wall, along with the names of 34 Americans killed in the 1967 USS *Liberty* attack.

mww.middleeastconflictswallmemorial.us

See photos from last year's event:

www.legion.org/honor

### **VERBATIM**



Kittens.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, asked on the social media site Reddit to name one thing he never thought the Internet would be used for but has ended up as one of its most popular topics

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# ASK A SERVICE OFFICER

# Five ways to establish service-connected compensation



**Cajun Comeau** Department Service Officer, North Carolina

Q: Am I eligible to apply for serviceconnected disability compensation?

A: If you are suffering from a disability that occurred or worsened while you were on active duty, you may be eligible for serviceconnected disability

compensation. You must be able to prove that your condition is related to your service through a medical statement from a qualified provider. Here are five ways to establish service connection:

**Direct service connection** You must have a disease, injury, illness or occurrence in service that produces a chronic, debilitating condition: have the same or a closely related condition; and show a link between the two, through interval medical treatment or a statement from a qualified medical provider.

Presumptive service connection You must have served in certain places in the world, at certain times and/or during certain operations. An example is exposure to Agent Orange.

Secondary service connection A service-connected condition is shown to be the cause of another disability.

Aggravation If you enter active duty with a pre-existing condition and it becomes worse, or if an existing condition is aggravated by a service-connected condition, there may be a basis for service connection due to aggravation.

U.S.C. 1151 claim This is when negligence and/or misconduct occur in a VA healthcare facility, resulting in a chronic, debilitating condition.

Find an American Legion accredited service officer in your state:



Do you have a question for Department of North Carolina Service Officer Cajun Comeau about the claims process or veterans benefits in general? Send it to askso@legion.org.

# **ONLINE**

# Who are America's most beloved veterans?

George Washington. Alvin York. Audie Murphy. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf. Marcus Luttrell. R. Lee Ermey.

From every generation of Americans that has gone to war, the names of a few veterans are added to our nation's collective memory - some for selflessness and courage under fire, some for national leadership in tough times, some for their celebrity.

During the month of May, The American Legion Magazine invites you to visit our website - www.legion.org - and pick your candidates for America's most beloved veterans. Don't see your favorites on our list? Submit a name or two.

Veterans receiving the most votes will be featured in the November issue and online. Cast yours today!



www.legion.org/belovedveterans







# **EDUCATION**



# Know your GI Bill eligibility period

**Q:** I was discharged from the Marine Corps eight years ago. I have decided to go back to school but am not sure how my education benefits work. Do I need to finish my degree or just start my schooling before my eligibility ends?

A: You must finish your degree – not begin your training – before this time limit to receive benefits. For most people, benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty end 10 years from the date of your last discharge or release from active duty. There may be some exceptions for those with prior eligibility under the Vietnam-era GI Bill. For post-9/11 recipients, eligibility ends 15 years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty, with different rules applying for transfer of entitlement recipients.

VA may extend your eligibility period by the amount of time you were prevented from training because of a disability or because you were held by a foreign government or power (this does not apply to recipients of transfer of entitlement benefits).

VA may also extend your eligibility period if you re-enter active duty for 90 days or more after becoming eligible. Periods of active duty of fewer than 90 days can qualify you for extensions only if you were separated for a service-connected disability, a medical condition existing before active duty, hardship or force reduction.

You must request an extension before your time runs out.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona. askvalerie@legion.org



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# PERSONAL FINANCE



# Five money management mistakes

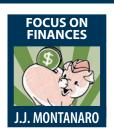
Managing your investments can be dizzying, and there's lots of hard-to-ignore noise on the periphery.

Peruse the paper, surf the Internet or turn on your TV, and you'll be bombarded with gutwrenching financial news and "can't-miss opportunities" that inevitably work their way into decisions you make on your investment portfolio.

Truth be told, I'm surrounded by money managers and money news, and sometimes I wonder, "What's the right move?" And that's with 20 years of experience in personal finance. There's no doubt about it – managing your investments can be perilous, with plenty of opportunities to make a bad move.

With the accuracy of hindsight on my side, here are five common mistakes I've seen people make in this area:

- Timing instead of "time in." Buy low, sell high. Sounds easy enough, right? But the reality is far different. At the beginning of 2013, a budget crisis, a pending government shutdown and a long-running bull market could have easily led investors to jump out of stocks. A correction was surely imminent. Oops − U.S. stocks surged more than 30 percent. The lesson? Don't try to time the market. Among the challenges you'll face is the need to make two decisions: when to get out and when to get back in. Can you get them both right? If so, can you do it more than once? Probably not. Let your long-term money work for the long term.
- Picking off the top of the list. It's way too easy to look at last year's winners and choose to jump on the bandwagon by shifting your money to whatever did the best. Don't do it! Remember, the rule is buy low, sell high. Maybe last year's winner will go even higher or maybe it won't. Typically, you'll arrive at the party just in time for a big disappointment. Chasing last year's return isn't really an investment strategy.



- Hankering for a home run. In 2013, if you owned Rite Aid stock, you would have seen a healthy 272 percent return. If you had bet on the gold-mining stock of Newmont Mining, you would have lost nearly half your investment. The point? For most people, broad-based mutual fund or exchange-traded fund investments make more sense than swinging for the fences ... with the risk of striking out.
- Believing more is better. Everything in moderation. It's a saying that works well in many aspects of life, and investing is no exception. Some gold, commodities or real estate might be a nice addition to your portfolio. However, like cayenne pepper in your favorite recipe, more is not necessarily better. A diversified portfolio should contain a mix of different investments, but not wild bets on the latest trend.
- Following the headlines. Today's 24-hour news cycle makes it difficult to focus on your long-term goals. But overhauling or overturning your plan for the next quartercentury based on the latest and loudest talking head's thoughts (which won't match next week's rant) is not a solid portfolio management model. Follow the news, but don't let it run you in circles.

Are you guilty of these missteps? Hopefully not. But if you feel any of them creeping in, bust out your long-term plan and your noise-canceling headphones. Like it or not, the investment world will always be a loud one. The key is to block out the extraneous noise and tune in to the goals you're trying to achieve.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner for USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

www.legion.org/focusonfinances

# SOCIAL MEDIA

# The Legion on Pinterest

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Source: New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission/New York Times



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# **ACTIVE DUTY**

# System speeds troops' voting overseas

South Dakota has unveiled a new system to ensure that military personnel can exercise their right to vote even when deployed overseas.

Dubbed the "Innovative Overseas Absentee-Balloting System" – or iOASIS – the system combines computer technology and the Common Access Card (CAC) issued by the DoD to enable deployed forces to securely request, obtain and return an absentee ballot.

As the Sioux Falls Business Journal (SFBJ) reports, the system allows servicemembers "to use the cameras on electronic devices, such as iPads or smartphones, to scan the bar code on their common access cards, the identification cards issued to all servicemembers." Each CAC is unique to each servicemember. "Once logged into the system, the servicemember can register to vote or complete a ballot online. Once the ballot is filled out, the servicemember prints it, signs it like any other absentee voter would, and mails it in to the county auditor."

According to South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant, iOASIS allows deployed troops to register,

request an absentee ballot, receive an absentee ballot and fill out a ballot "in seconds." iOASIS turns "a 60-day process into a less-than-5-minute transaction."

Although the system uses online technology, it's not online voting because it still requires the voter to print and mail his or her ballot.

Gant says that iOASIS corrects "the injustice that servicemen and women experience in their ballots

not being counted. They risk their lives defending our right to vote. We need to defend theirs."

South Dakota is the only state handling military-overseas balloting in this manner, SFBJ reports, adding that the system was developed with a \$680,000 grant from the Federal Voting Assistance Program.





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Joe Denim is touring throughout the Midwest this Spring, and visiting The American Legion Posts along the way!

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# The invention of the year is great news for your ears.



ver the years, digital electronic technology has made the way we live easier, safer and more convenient. In many cases, it's even made many products more affordable... (remember how much the first VCR's used to cost?). Unfortunately, the cost of many digital products, including the hearing aid never seemed to come down. Now, a new option has been invented... it's called Perfect Choice HD<sup>TM</sup>.

Perfect Choice HD is NOT a hearing aid. It is a Personal Sound Amplification Product (PSAP). Hearing aids can only be sold by an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist following hearing tests and fitting appointments. Once the audiologist had you tested and fitted, you would have to pay as much as \$5000 for the product.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the doctor who leads a renowned hearing institute, there is Perfect Choice HD. It's designed to accurately amplify sounds and

deliver them to your ear. Because we've developed an efficient production process, we can make a great product at an affordable price. The unit has been designed to have an easily accessible battery, but it is small and lightweight enough to hide behind your ear... only you'll know you have it on. It's comfortable and won't make vou feel like you have something stuck in your ear. It provides high quality audio so sounds and conversations will be easier to hear and understand.

Try it for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Some people need hearing aids but many just want the extra boost in volume that a PSAP gives them. We want you to be happy with Perfect Choice HD, so we are offering to let you try it for yourself. If you are not totally satisfied with this product, simply return it within 60 days for a refund of the full product purchase price. Don't wait... don't miss out on another conversation... call now!

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Perfect Choice HD is not a hearing aid. If you believe you need a hearing aid, please consult a physician. Not available in the state of Washington.

# How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@ legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number** of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

### Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis,

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for informa-

tion on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response

Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

# **AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES**

2nd, 5th Mule Train, Nashville, TN, 9/16-18, Roger Robertson, (760) 245-0201, rdrcc@ msn.com; 5th AF Track & Field Team (All Competitors, Tokyo, Spring 1952), Bob Lucas, (231) 510-0607; 34th Bomb Sqd, San Diego, 10/2-5, Rod Breland, (225) 751-2058, rodbrel@ msn.com; 47th BWA, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 11/5-9, Bill Day, (850) 862-5997, wday7692@ cox.net; 555th CESHR (Triple Nickel) Red Horse (Vietnam), Omaha, NE, 7/17-20, Stan Klein, (402) 681-5922, stan@klein-sr.org; 556th Strat Msl Sqdn, Shreveport, LA, 10/13-17, Leon Hojegian, (973) 783-5738, hojegian@verizon. net; 758th AC&W Radar Sqdn, Chattanooga, TN, 10/24-26, Darwyn McCall, (434) 822-2033, sawdoff35@netzero.net; 768th AC&W Sqdn, Moriarty, NM, 9/18-20, Jose Perea, (303) 433-7551, moriartyreunion@gmail.com; 773rd Radar Sqdn (SAGE), Montauk, NY, 9/13-13, Spencer Kuratomi, (252) 675-2827, sr2kuratomi@yahoo.com; 781st Bomb Sqdn 465th Bomb Grp, Dover, DE, 10/1-4, Orren Lee, (605) 339-1297, clee13@midco. net; **815th TCS "Flying Jennies,"** Branson, MO, 10/9-11, Stan Staggs, (479) 721-5828, staggsstan@ yahoo.com; 866th Avn Eng Bn, Davenport, IA, 7/25-27, Esther Diehl, (309) 374-2332, baumbach@ bellsouth.net; Former OSI Special Agents, Nashville, TN, 9/3-7, John Perryman, (410) 535-2191, muffin@olg.com; Radar Station Vets, Reno, NV, 5/18-23, Woody Woodworth, (927) 878-2495, lgwdwrth@roadrunner.com Torrejon AB, Spain (All Yrs), Florence, KY, 8/27-9/1, Burnethel Sanford, (951) 739-0202, mizbs3492@msn.com

# **ARMY**

1st Armd Div Assn, El Paso, CA, 8/20-25, Joe Sachen, (310) 990-8811, docsachen@gmail.com; 2nd Bn 11th Arty (1966-1968), Franklin, TN, 9/12-14, Paul Fast, (859) 299-7180, paul.fast@twc. com; 2/27 Wolfhounds Charlie Co, Branson, MO, 6/21-23, John Quintrell, (406) 799-6555, shkdive@msn.com; 3rd Bn 71st Air Def Arty, Colorado Springs, CO, 8/17-20, Donald Yarbrough, (309) 689-0449, ducky2@sbcglobal.net; 8th Bn 4th Arty (Vietnam), Philadelphia, 8/6-10, Brian O'Neill, (973) 729-5586, bmoneill@juno.com; 12th Armd Div (WWII), Atlanta, 7/30-8/3, Allan Dear, (229) 630-5682, dear5@earthlink.net; 13th Eng (C) Bn, St. Robert/Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 9/25-27, Billy Quinton Sr., (727) 323-1144, bquinton@ tampabay.rr.com; 19th Cbt Eng Bn & Attached Units, St. Roberts, MO, 9/4-6, Tom Ebrite, (765) 286-4906, s2snoopy@comcast.net; 20th Eng Bde (Vietnam), Appleton, WI, 7/24-26, Arthur Halmsted, (920) 738-5326, arthurhalmsted@ yahoo.com; 24th Inf Div, Omaha, NE, 9/17-21, Don Maggio, (828) 684-5931, the 24thiday p@aol. com; 25th Inf Div SASC, Gaithersburg, MD, 7/30-8/3, Charles J. Reed Jr., (410) 682-5135, chareve@

verizon.net; 26th Inf Rgt "Blue Spaders," Asheville, NC, 8/13-16, Tom Galvin, (703) 599-6480, tomgalvin.26thinfantry@gmail.com; 27th Inf Rgt "Wolfhounds," Kansas City, MO, 8/18-24, Randy Hall, (816) 668-8685, wolfhounds2014@ gmail.com; 28th Inf Rgt "Black Lions," Laughlin, NV, 10/14-17, Jim Shepherd, (480) 515-2765, shepherdretired@aol.com; 61st FA Bn, Branson, MO, 5/4-8, Bill Stewart, (812) 894-2802, wespjs@ aol.com; 69th Army Postal Unit (LaRochelle, France 1960-1962), McMinnville, TN, 6/6/2015, Charles Bogle, (931) 473-7354, cebogle@blomand. net; 80th Div 3rd Army, Hagerstown, MD, 8/13-16, Jeff Wignall, (978) 532-0741, member 9219@ aol.com; 97th & 510th Eng Bn (Const), Fort Leonard Wood, MO, 10/2-4, Larry Castleman, (334) 677-5179, llchief@aol.com; 101st Abn Div (Vietnam), Charleston, SC, 8/28-30, Rod Green, (605) 360-1240, randhgreen@sio.midco. net; 109th Evac Hosp (AL Nat'l Guard, Opn Desert Storm, Nov 1990-May 1991), Orange Beach, AL, 9/11-14, Danny Evans, (205) 903-1383; 249th Eng Bn Assn (1943-2014), Branson, MO, 9/18-21, Robin Wandell, (660) 815-1166, firewoodfriends@hotmail.com; 314th Inf & 79th Div Recon Trp (WWII), Cleveland, OH, 10/2-5, Dennis Tomory, (330) 726-6952, dengtom77@ aol.com: 328th ASA C/R Co (Bad Aibling, Germany, 1952-1955), Branson, MO, 9/9-11, Jerry Fortenberry, (601) 684-6050, gritsd@telepak. net; 357th Trans Co, Hagerstown, MD, 10/4-4, Jim Rickett, (717) 217-9342, wjrick@comcast. net; **503rd Parachute RCT Assn (WWII),** Terre Haute, IN, 7/30-8/3, Nelson Gatewood, (870) 856-2216, wwii503rdprct@yahoo.com; 504th MP Bn (1941-2014), San Antonio, 9/18-20, Jacky Warren, (334) 863-8130, jwarren@teleclipse.net; 516th Eng (Hanau, Germany), Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/15-19, Tom Collins, (765) 825-6436, tcandwc@ yahoo.com; **553rd Engrs (Float Bridge),** Las Vegas, 9/16-19, Clyde ("Gino") Phillips, (530) 622-6999, genephi213@gmail.com; 577th Eng Bn, Nashville, TN, 9/12-14, Jim Stevens, (704) 363-5358, jrs562@aol.com; 801st EAB, Moline, IL, 9/11-13, Robert Vajcner, (734) 242-4278 roger-s-roop@juno.com; 995th Maint Co (DS) (DIV), Hays, KS, 9/6, Ronald P. Unrein, (785) 632-3430, grjamer@ruraltel.net; Arizona Army Sec Agency Assn, Tucson, AZ, 8/15-17, Doug Cook, (520) 603-0247, dougirenecook@q.com; ASA Okinawa, Albuquerque, NM, 9/17-21, Gary Duenow, (319) 393-2234, thedue60@yahoo. com; B Co 2/5 Cav 1st Cav Div (Vietnam), Minneapolis, 9/11-14, Bob & Judy Kuchenbaker, (763) 389-9878, nsggod47@yahoo.com; B-5-60th 9th Inf (Vietnam), Denver, CO, 5/29-6/1, "Doc" Jerry Leppert, (303) 919-2688; B/7/17 Air Cav, Louisville, KY, 6/2-6, Buddy Harp, (573) 324-3924, buddyharp@yahoo.com; Berlin US Mil Vets, Berlin, 8/4-9, Jerry Bryson, (706) 217-8610, membership@busmva.com; Cbt Infantrymen's

Assn, Kissimmee, FL, 10/2-5, Larry Eckard, (828) 256-6008, combatinfantrymensassoc@yahoo. com; MAAG Vietnam, Nashville, TN, 10/23-26, Wayne McCaughey, (540) 450-8526, wmmccaughey@verizon.net; OCS Fort Knox (1965-1968), Louisville, KY, 10/9-12, Ron Demery, (417) 317-2670, ronddem@yahoo.com; USA Sig Corps OCS Assn, Kissimmee, FL, 10/9-12, Richard Kerns, (615) 391-0867, rkerns99@bellsouth.net

# **COAST GUARD**

Reliance, Portsmouth, NH, 6/20, Katharine Martorelli, (201) 675-3458, katharine.e.martorelli@ uscg.mil; Wakefield AP 21 (WWII), Hagerstown, MD, 6/20-22, Dan Springer, (301) 733-2959, vze5bcf41@verizon.net

# **JOINT**

Cambria APA 36, Virginia Beach, VA, 5/5-8, Andrew Henry, (703) 660-8602, usscambria@ gmail.com; DRRI (Race Relations Units) (1972-1978), Fairfield, IA, 6/6-8, John Miller, (641) 209-1039, jcmiller69@msn.com; Gurke DD 783, Reno, NV, 5/5-8, Thomas Stephenson, (408) 263-2836, dd783\_reunion@tstephenson. com; Iwo Jima LPH 2 / LHD 7 (Navy & Marines), Jacksonville, FL, 8/27-31, Robert McAnally, (757) 723-0317, yujack46709@gmail.com; Korean War Ex-POWs, Louisville, KY, 7/27-8/3, Bill Norwood, (423) 476-3628, wnorwood909@charter.net

# **MARINES**

2nd Bn 4th Mar (Assigned, Attached & Navy Chaplains and Corpsmen), Portland, OR, 8/13-17, John Schassen, (541) 536-5863, jnschassen@aol. com; 3rd 155/175mm Gun Bty (SP), Alexandria, VA, 9/11-13, Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@ comcast.net; 81mm Mortar Plt H&S Co 1st Bn 1st Mar 3rd Mar Div Rein FMF (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, 1959-1960), Quantico, VA, 9/16-18, Robert Daniels, (281) 713-2204, bobdan3773@ yahoo.com; B Co 1st Bn 3rd Mar (Okinawa, 1963-1964), Quantico, VA, 6/16-20, Mike Merrill, (508) 478-3637, mikemerrill42@yahoo.com; B Co 7th Motor Trans Bn, San Diego, 10/1-3, Tim Weddington, (816) 808-2357, timweddington@ comcast.net; Btry Adjust 3rd Bn 11th Mar, San Diego, 9/10-14, Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller48@gmail.com; Force Log Cmd/Force Log Support Grp A Trk Co, Orange Beach, AL, 9/25-28, John Kane, (251) 987-1490, johnkane@ gulftel.com; Missouri BB 63 Mar Det, Toledo, OH, 9/11-13, Matt Dallas, (419) 868-1234; Montford Point Mar Assn, New Orleans, 7/16-20, Ron Johnson, (504) 270-5426, conventiondeputy@ montfordpointmarines.org; Point Mugu Mar Guard Det (1946-1960), Branson, MO, 9/5-8, Arthur Smallenberger, (816) 436-6493, pt.mugumarine@kc.rr.com



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Agerholm DD 826, Baton Rouge, LA, 10/2-5, Don Baldwin, (618) 375-6011, dab315@frontier.com; Aldebaran AF 10, Branson, MO, 9/17-20, Ed Pepling, (772) 828-1486, edward@Pepling.com; Antietam CV 36, Branson, MO, 9/17-21, Ed Booth, (253) 752-6158, ermabooth@aol.com; Ashland LSD 1 & 48, Louisville, KY, 6/18-21, Tom Webb, (502) 348-8142, olcr14@yahoo.com; Assn of Aviation Ordnancemen, Reno, NV, 7/30-8/3, J.J. LaMaitre, (619) 562-8492, jjlsantee@cox.net; Balch DD 363, Buffalo, NY, 9/7-13, David Lesh, (814) 864-8594, mdlesh@icloud.com; *Bexar* APA 237, Pensacola, FL, 9/18-21, Steve Malloy, (360) 373-1093, ussbexar@comcast.net; Blue Ridge LCC 19 3rd Div (1985-1989), Brunswick, ME, 8/15-17, Don Patterson, (732) 918-6613, lcc19thirddivreunion1985\_1989@yahoo.com; Bristol DD 857, Branson, MO, 9/22-25, Paul Ratcliffe, (973) 309-4040, pd\_ratcliffe@msn.com; Bryce Canyon AD 36, Nashville, TN, 10/16-19, Mike Nesbit, (619) 562-5690, thenezz@cox.net; Caloosahatchee AO 98, Wilmington, NC, 10/16-19, Mark Bienz, (540) 899-2974, mbienz@ aol.com; Cavalier APA 37, Las Vegas, 9/14-18, Tom Wolder, (417) 345-0082; Charles H. Roan DD 853, Philadelphia, 9/9-13, Richard Souza, (850) 261-1360, souza6@cox.com; Chilton APA 38, Louisville, KY, 9/18-21, William Seymer, (812) 944-4241, oldmrbill@twc.com; Co 279 (NTC Great Lakes, IL, June 1952), Mesa, AZ, 10/17-19, Walter Gallaher, (480) 984-3923, wwgman@ yahoo.com; Colonial LSD 18, Boise, ID, 9/10-14, Loren Kerby, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol. com; Corpsmen (AAoNHC), Providence/ Warwick, RI, 9/25-28, Charles Kraut, (817) 229-5194, chuckkat@swbell.net; Courtney DE 1021, Boston, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; Cromwell DE 1014, Boston, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; Dealey DE 1006, Boston, 9/4-6, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; Decatur (All Hulls), Baltimore, 9/11-15, Tony West, (410) 836-7362, tony0705@aol.com; Delta AR 9, Branson, MO, 9/14-18, Ron Ihsen, (480) 389-7078, deltaar9@ hotmail.com; Diablo SS 479, Jacksonville, FL, 10/8-11, Tim Calvert, (410) 592-6696, tim479@aol. com; Goldsborough DDG 20, Charleston, SC, 9/14-19, Pat Taylor, (937) 533-0897, ptphoto@woh. rr.com; Grand Canyon AD/AR 28, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/13-17, Tom Chamberlin, (843) 504-8771, wtchamberlin@aol.com; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Charleston, SC, 10/26-31, Ed Astle, (843) 760-1856, nchsndist1@edastle.us; Hale DD 642, Groton, CT, 9/11-14, Roland Paquette, (207) 363-6919, rpaquette@maine.rr.com; Halsey Powell DD 686, San Antonio, 9/29-10/3, James Wyatt, (435) 752-2026, halsey.powell@comcast. net; Hartley DE 1029, New London, CT, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter. net; Hector AR 7, Springfield, IL, 9/24-28, Ellis Gemberling, (217) 725-2314, egemberl@ sbcglobal.net; Holder DDE 819, Chattanooga, TN, 9/21-25, Jim Debarrios, (831) 458-9062, ussholder\_dde819@hotmail.com; Hunley AS 31, Waterloo, IA, 9/10-14, James Fitkin, (319) 266-3509, jjfitkin@netins.net; Huntington CL 107, Memphis, TN, 9/25-28, Gene Volcik, (512) 926-7008, evolcik@aol.com; Inchon Assn, Norfolk, VA, 10/12-16, David Fix, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com; Intrepid CV 11, Memphis, TN, 6/18-22, Chuck Coppess, (219) 762-8714, w5147956@yahoo.com; Iwo Jima Class Assn LPHs, San Antonio, 9/3-7, Floyd Wilson, (336) 263-6777, fwilsonrem@yahoo.com; John Willis DE 1027, Boston, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; Jonas Ingram DD 938, Norfolk, VA, 10/23-26, Pete Ventola, (973) 627-7491, prpenn@rcn.com; Joseph K. Taussig DE 1030, Boston, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; Juneau CLAA 119, San Antonio, 9/3-7, Edwin Cox, (843) 537-5848, edwincox@bellsouth.net; Juneau LPD 10, Newport, OR, 7/17-20, Don Beutien, (317)

694-0769, ussiuneaureunion@aol.com: Kankakee AO 39, Norfolk, VA, 9/17-21, Steve Metzler, (828) 349-9495, ao39sec@aol.com; Lake Champlain Assn, Plattsburgh, NY, 9/11-14, James Brown, (732) 928-8355, goat1964@aol.com; Latimer APA 152, Hampton, VA, 10/5-9, Elisa Raney, (757) 595-3274, iamnavy@me.com; Lester DE 1022, Boston, 9/4-6, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; LST 883 (WWII, Korean War), Idaho Falls, ID, 9/17-21, Ben Mills, (208) 585-2284, lundy883@cox.net; Mansfield DD 728, Fall River, MA, 9/10-14, Tom Harper, (419) 448-0536, tom 5292@sbcglobal.net; *McGowan* DD 678, Gettysburg, PA, 10/14-15, George Beery, (419) 483-6211, bgbeery@frontier.com; Mississinewa AO 144, Pittsburgh, 7/17-19, Richard Albanese, (724) 843-4262, richardalbanese@comcast.net; Mississippi EAG 128, Memphis, TN, 9/25-28, Paul Shepley, (910) 256-6173, eag128reunion@yahoo.com; Nat'l Chief Petty Officers Assn, Seattle, 10/1-4, Marvin Johnson, (253) 770-5935, mwjohn4@ comcast.net; Neches AO 47, St. Louis, 9/10-14, Johnny Hanlon, (918) 760-7371, johnnyhanlon@ cox.net; New Jersey BB 62, St. Louis, 8/20-24, Steve Sheehan, (215) 407-7803, stevebb62@ comcast.net; NMCB 3 (All Eras), San Antonio, 9/18-20, Jack Davis, (606) 546-8491, nmcb3vra@ hotmail.com; Old Antarctic Explorer Assn, Norfolk, VA, 11/12-14, Ed Hamblin, (757) 405-3362, ehamblin74@verizon.net; Patron Four Five Assn, Jacksonville, FL, 10/15-19, Doug Mitchell, (678) 650-7500, poohbearmit@aol.com; Perry DD 844/FFG 7, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/2-6, Joan Guariniello, (727) 868-9368, jandlassoc@aol.com; Pickaway APA 222, Pensacola, FL, 9/18-21, Jim Crawford, (423) 605-9082, sailor@catt.com; Porterfield DD 682, Buffalo, NY, 9/7-13, David Lesh, (814) 864-8594, mdlesh@icloud.com; Preston DD 795, Solvang, CA, 9/22-26, Jim Banakus, (805) 714-9630, harley4jim2@aol.com; Purdy DD 734, Albany, NY, 5/14-18, Larry Di Pasquale, (610) 433-4787, chiefdi@juno.com; Ranger CV/CVA 61 (Crew, Sqdns, Mar Det & TAD), Jacksonville, FL, 10/1-4, Larry Schmuhl, (904) 997-2217, lschmuhl@gmail.com; Renville APA 227, Niagara Falls/Buffalo, NY, 6/4-8, Lynda Rumple, (704) 906-7622, lyndarumple07@gmail. com; Rockbridge APA 228, Niagara Falls/Buffalo, NY, 6/4-8, Lynda Rumple, (704) 906-7622 lyndarumple07@gmail.com; Rupertus DD 851, New Orleans, 10/14-16, Pete Spoonhower, (573) 267-3510, pspoonhower@gmail.com; Schofield DEG/FFG 3, Philadelphia, 9/18-21, Mark Fletcher, (413) 773-3211, gunnerfletch@hotmail.com; Severn AO 61, Mobile, AL, 9/30-10/5, Wayne Williams, (570) 675-3151, beegdblu@aol.com; Shannon DM 25, Charleston, SC, 10/13-17, Jack Duegaw, (540) 226-6010, jkduegaw@yahoo.com; Shenandoah AD 26, Washington, 10/9-12, Thomas Durand, (203) 494-6661, tbdurand@att. net; Springfield CL 66/CLG 7/SSN 761, San Diego, 9/18-21, Richard Wilson, (253) 210-5609, graham98338@comcast.net; Taconic AGC 17, Branson, MO, 9/28-10/2, David Asselin, (321) 631-6928; Tin Can Sailors, Charleston, SC, 8/17-21, Terry Miller, (800) 223-5535, monica@ destroyers.org; Tiru SS 416, Canandiagua, NY, 9/25-28, Don Mandrino, (585) 472-0466, 2014reunion@usstiru.org; Truxtun, Jacksonville, FL, 10/9-12, Charles Bethea, (843) 395-0161, cbethea1@sc.rr.com; Turner Joy DD 951, Bremerton, WA, 8/7-10, Richard Asche, (360) 871-9482, reasche@aol.com; VA-65, Naples, FL, 9/17-21, Steve Bronker, (765) 345-9302, skbrink@ embarqmail.com; VAH-21, San Diego, 9/10-14, Gerald Tripp, (951) 926-6047, trippg748@verizon. net; Van Voorhis DE 1028, Boston, 9/4-7, Marc Arsenault, (508) 248-5072, marc-a@charter.net; VF-194, Seattle, 9/4-6, Steve Davis, (509) 276-6165, hogbody46@aol.com; Voge DE/FF 1047 (Crew & Air Grps, 1966-1989), Norfolk, VA, 10/8-12, Tom Anderson, (501) 259-1369, ussvogegroup@gmail.com; Von Steuben SSBN 632, Newport News, VA, 9/25-28, Rick Wise, (843) 875-5559, ssbn632reunion@sc.rr.com; Walker

DD/DDE 517, San Antonio, 10/6-9, Michael Goggins, (414) 774-5201, m.bgoggins@att.net; Wallace L. Lind DD 703, Warwick, RI, 10/2-6, Ed Siemietkoski, (856) 829-6470, edwardpro23@ verizon.net; Warrington DD 843, Jacksonville, FL, 9/17-21, Stan Prager, (916) 791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com; Wexford County LST 1168, Louisville, KY, 10/9-12, Larry Condra, (314) 994-1187, wexford.county.reunion@aol.com; Whetstone LSD 27, Portland, ME, 9/11-14, Everett Ward, (910) 790-1995, ekwardjr@aol.com; Wilkinson DL 5, Rochester, MN, 8/25-30, John Lair, (619) 479-7387, hobocamp@aol.com; Yorktown CV/CVA/CVS 10 (Crew, Sqdns, Air Grps & Marines, 1943-1970), Mount Pleasant, SC, 10/16-18, Alix Adams, (843) 849-1928, aadams@ussyorktown.net

### **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

Post 146, CA: Harold L. Mahoney, Vincent Manno, Billy Meredith, Alex Shackelford Post 385, CA: Manuel Mendoza, Jessie E. Slotte Post 546, CA: Leon Pellissier Post 746, CA: Michael Harvat, Billie Price Post 138, FL: Joel Tavera Post 135, MD: Donald L. Griffith Sr., Charles W. Thomas Post 1039, NY: Joseph T. Miller Post 355, WI: James Arentz

# **IN SEARCH OF**

- **1st Avn Co (Korat, Thailand, 1962 & Vung Tau, Vietnam, 1963),** Gary Addington, (423)
  968-7079
- 1st Bn 7th Mar H&S Co (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, Apr 1960-May 1961), John Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarine1@yahoo.com
- 2nd FA/Msl Det 512th USAAG (Pfullendorf, Germany, 1962-1991), Fred Miller, (989) 732-2136, fredmiller98@hotmail.com
- 6th Cbt Support Grp 67th TAC Hosp (Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1966), William Chancellor, williamiohn322@verizon.net
- 11th Eng Bn A Co Sec Guard Force (Camp Stanley, South Korea, 1969-1970), Robert Turner, (518) 288-3113
- 56th Trans Co (ADS) (Long Thanh, North Vietnam, Mar 1968-Apr 1969), Leander Dunham, (843) 334-8201, leadunham@aol.com
- 61st Med Bn 392nd Collecting Co (Europe, WWII), George Moran, (413) 442-4035, georgemoran459@gmail.com
- 63rd Sig Bn B Co (Camp Roder, Salsburg, Austria, 1954), Jack Marincovich, 37712 Parker Lane, Astoria, OR 97103
- 67th Med Det 2nd Armd Div (Mainz, Germany, 1950-1957), A.B. Barnes, kemetuniversal@ hotmail.com
- **68th Munitions Maint 93rd Bomb Wing (Glasgow, MT, 1966-1968),** Patricia Turgeon, pktrg6@yahoo.com
- 83rd Eng Bn A Co Fast Pitch Softball Team (Fontenet, France, 1962-1963), Frank Maline, (315) 829-3625, fmmaline@gmail.com
- **93rd AEMS (Castle AFB, CA, 1959-1962),** Joseph Hlado, (773) 592-6017, hondo711@yahoo.com
- 97th Bomb Wing HQ & Maint Sqdn (Biggs AFB, El Paso, TX, 1954-1958), Carroll Winstead, (252) 883-8794, valwin34@yahoo.com
- **257th Sig Det (Korat, Thailand, 1962 & Vung Tau, Vietnam, 1963),** Gary Addington, (423)
  968-7079
- **294th MP Co (Camp Zama, Japan, 1966-1969),** Scott Reed, (740) 687-1132, sreed002@ columbus.rr.com
- **315th Trp Carrier (Brady AB, Japan),** Charlie Casey, (207) 454-8286
- **610th Eng (Vietnam, 1966-1968),** Edward Picarello, (845) 297-0174, bluemet93@yahoo. com
- **6912th AF Sec Serv (West Berlin, Germany),** Maurice Howard Reagan, (417) 588-5811

- A & B Btrys 75th FA (Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Hanau, Germany, Dec 1959-Apr 1962), Allen Brown. (850) 932-9416
- Arnold J. Isbell DD 869 (Vietnam, Jan 1967-Mar 1968), Frank DiFede, (631) 987-6401, bf007@optonline.net
- B Co 879th Abn Glider Unit (Burma), Ernest Scheitel, 39760 N. Stonebridge Court, Antioch, II 60002
- **Beagle IX 112 (Okinawa, 1945-1946),** Joe Salvatore, (732) 229-8703, joesal2121@ optonline.net
- **Bottineau APA 235 (1944-1947),** Theodore Boyer, (414) 421-7188, tfboyer8@gmail.com
- **Bradley DE/FF 1041,** Bruce Gottsch, (845) 634-3993, bgottsch@verizon.net
- CG Patrol Frigate Sailors (WWII), (520) 419-9725, deyoewilliam@aol.com
- H-25 Heli Rescue (Sasebo, Japan, 1963-1964), Ignacio Villanueva, (504) 305-5040, iggyvilla@ gmail.com
- HQ Co 3rd Bn 33rd Armd 3rd Armd Div (Kirch-Goens, Germany, Toronto & Ohio, 1967-1969), Ron Dacko, (740) 537-5518
- MATS 1936 AACS Comm Sqdn (Lajes, Azores, Feb 1952-July 1953), Frank Henderson, (515) 279-2500, applevideo1@aol.com
- Plt 193 (MCRD Parris Island, SC, July 1966), Carl Withey, (315) 689-3653, crwithey@twcny. rr.com
- **Plt 378 (MCRD Parris Island, SC, 1967),** Martin Puchi, (724) 344-5583
- Plt 650 (MCRD San Diego, Aug-Sept 1943), George W. Taylor, (225) 655-3575

- **Plt 3087 (MCRD San Diego, Jan 1957),** Jay Allen, (260) 403-4945, 03jallen31@gmail.com
- YOG 32 (Reykjavik, Iceland, 1955-1956), Frank Cahill, (856) 667-1237, carpo139@aol.com

### **TAPS**

- Kenneth A. Bonde, Dept. of Wisconsin. Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2005-2010, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Chmn. 1985-1986, 1988-1989, 1991-1992, 1994-1995, 1997-1998, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Vice Chmn. 1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1990-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997, 1999-2000 and 2002-2003, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Memb. 1983-1984, 1986-1987, 1989-1990, 1992-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-1999, 2001-2002 and 2004-2005, and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1980-1984.
- Donald C. Ertmann, Dept. of Ohio. Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1990-1991 and 2006-2011, and Nat'l Merchant Marine Cmte. 1994-2006.
- Thomas L. Gabel, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1988-1989, Dept. Cmdr. 1980-1981, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1982-1984, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1977-1978 and 1991-1997, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Memb. 1989-1991, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 5 Vice Chmn. 1981-1984, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1984-1986, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1984-1985, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1985-1986 and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Memb. 1986-1988.

- Robert M. Johnson, Dept. of Maryland. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 2000-2003, Dept. Cmdr. 1995-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1998-2000, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1982-2000, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmte. Memb. 2013-2014, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Consultant 2003-2006, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2006-2013, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2000-2001, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Chmn. 2001-2002 and Nat'l Subcmte. on Cmtes. Memb. 2001-2002.
- Donald E. Neil, Dept. of Delaware. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1986-1987, Dept. Cmdr. 1971-1972, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1974-1976, 1988-1990, 1994-1996 and 2002-2006, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1972-1974, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1990-1991, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1988-1990, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1976-1978, 1990-1992 and 1996-1998, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1978-1987 and 1993-1996, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1992-1993 and 2001-2007, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1991-1992, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1996-1997, and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1976-1978 and 1997-1998.
- William A. Smith, Dept. of Georgia. Dept. Cmdr. 2002-2003, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1997-1999, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1999-2002, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2002-2013 and Nat'l Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Cmte. Memb. 2013-2014.

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Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

**TWO PARROTS** were sitting on a perch. One said to the other, "Do you smell fish?"

**ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION,** the candidate asked the reporter, "Did you cover my last speech?"

"I sure hope so," the reporter replied.

**TWO PEOPLE** had a happy marriage, despite their not-quite-compatible interests. He was crazy about golf and she spent all her free time at antique auctions.

One night, he cried out in his sleep, "Fore!" She, also sleeping, responded, "Four-fifty!"

**AN ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR** staggered home from the train station feeling ill.

"Ten hours riding backwards," he told his wife.
"I never could stand that."

"Why didn't you ask the person sitting opposite to change seats with you?" she asked.

"I couldn't do that. There wasn't anyone there."

**A TEACHER** said to her class, "Name five things that contain milk."

"I know!" a boy exclaimed. "Butter and cheese and ice cream and ... and ... two cows!"

**A WOMAN,** obviously pregnant, was asked by someone, "Are you going to have a baby?"

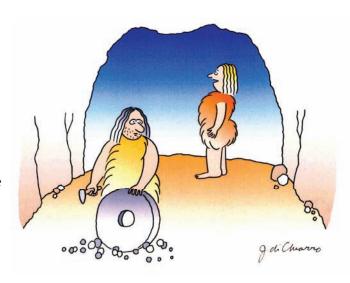
"No," the first woman replied. "I'm just carrying this for a friend."



"I fought the lawn and the lawn won."



"What's that, Fifi? He's an incompetent boob? Fifi, that's not very nice!"



"Dinner's ready. It just slipped into the tar pit."

**ONE WAITER** complained to another, "It took me all morning to fill this salt shaker."

"How?" the other waiter asked.

"Do you have any idea how hard it is to get the salt through those little holes on top?"

**A BARBER** asked a new customer, "Hey, haven't I shaved you before?"

"No," the man said, "I got this scar in the war."

THE CENSUS TAKER asked a woman,

"What's your age?"

"Let me figure this out," she said. "I was 18 when I got married, and my husband was 30. He's 60 now – twice what he was then – so that would make me ... 36!"

**"CNN IS CANCELING** Piers Morgan's talk show. Yes, it's been 238 years since the Declaration of Independence, but it still feels good telling the British guy to get out." – *Craig Ferguson* 

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Turner W. Branch, a principal and senior partner of the Branch Law Firm, retired as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1968. He served on active duty in Camp Pendleton, California and at the Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) in Santa Ana, California. While at Camp Pendleton he served with the Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (FMF) USMC.

# Offices

**New Mexico** 2025 Rio Grande Boulevard, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104 **Texas** 808 Travis Street, Suite 1553, Houston, TX 70022 **Washington, DC** 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004

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